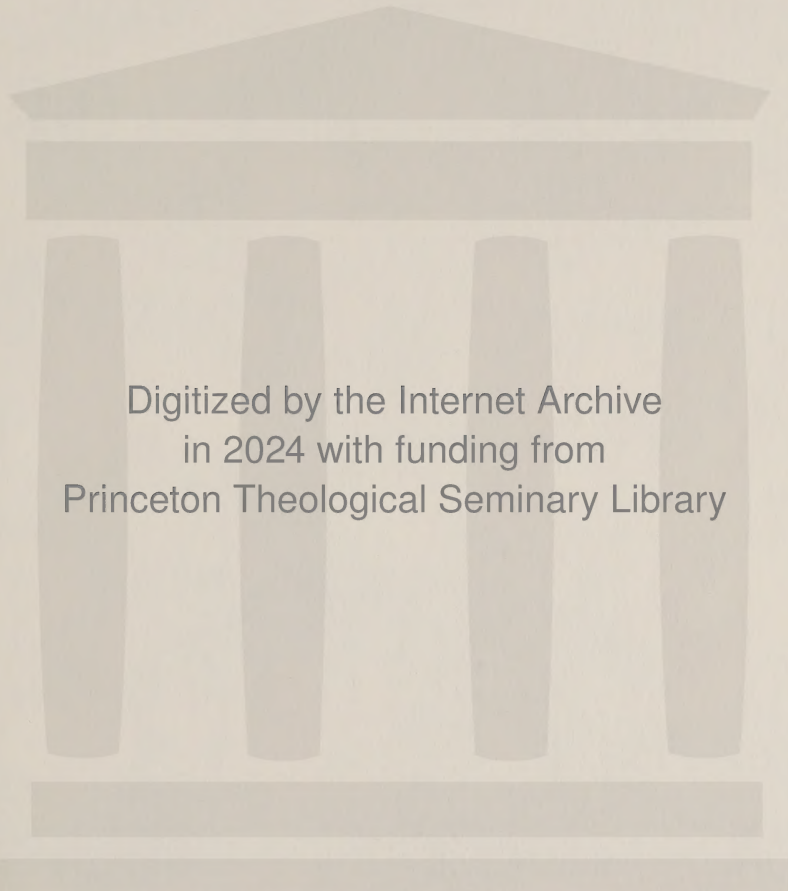


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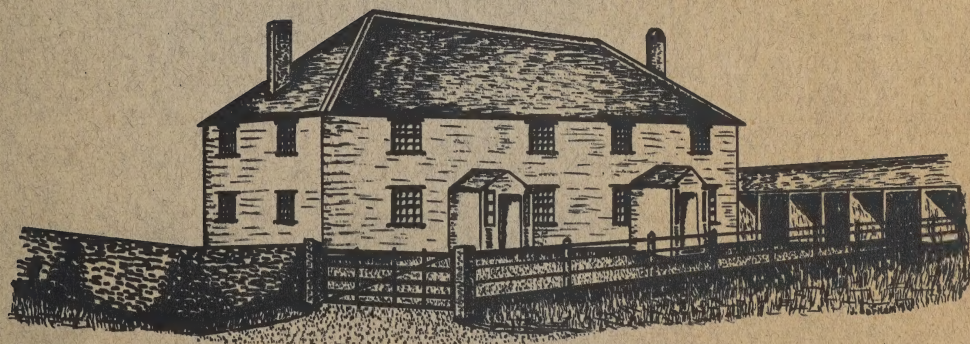
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INVENTORY
of the
Church Archives
of
RHODE ISLAND

Society of Friends



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HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY

*Works Progress Administration
Providence, Rhode Island*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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has been made possible by a
generous contribution from the
Society of Friends.

Historical Records Survey
R.I.



INVENTORY OF THE CHURCH ARCHIVES

of

RHODE ISLAND

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Prepared by

The Historical Records Survey
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Works Progress Administration

* * * * *

Providence, Rhode Island
The Historical Records Survey
May 1939

THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY

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F O R E W O R D

The Inventory of Church Archives of Rhode Island as it pertains to the records of the Society of Friends has, under the editorship of H. Francis Manchester and his staff, been carried out intelligently and efficiently.

It has brought to light and listed much little-known material which will be of substantial use to those who do research in this field. Those responsible for the collection and care of these records appreciate the permanent value of this work.

L. RALSTON THOMAS

May 15, 1939

Headmaster, Moses Brown School
Providence, Rhode Island

P R E F A C E

By authority of a Presidential Letter, the Historical Records Survey was initiated in January 1936 as a nation-wide undertaking of the Works Progress Administration, but did not begin operations in Rhode Island until April of that year. The Survey is a division of Federal Project No. 1, and is under the supervision of Dr. Luther H. Evans, National Director.

The purpose of the Survey is to make accessible to lawyers, historians, and students of government the records of state, city, and town offices. In conjunction with this inventory of public records, the church records, including those of defunct religious organizations, are being inventoried in a manner providing the ground work for research in this neglected field of social history.

The Inventory of Church Archives of Rhode Island, represented in this volume on the Society of Friends, is one of a nation-wide series of inventories of the archives of all religious denominations. The information contained is based on a search of the largest collection of original Friends' records in New England, now located in Rhode Island. Additional information was obtained by research in available printed material and by interviews with Friends.

The gathering, assembling, and editing of this material was done by H. Francis Manchester, Church Editor, assisted by Harold L. Ellsworth. Detailed editorial comments and criticism of this volume have been made by Donald A. Thompson, Assistant Archivist in charge of the Church Inventories.

For cheerful and helpful assistance and cooperation, the Survey thanks the Reference Staff of the Providence Public Library, the John Carter Brown Library, L. Ralston Thomas, Headmaster of Moses Brown School, Providence, and Friends throughout Rhode Island.

Andrew J. Pryor
State Director
The Historical Records Survey

May 15, 1939

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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The settlement of Providence, in 1636, by Roger Williams and his small group, was followed in 1638 by the settlement of Portsmouth by William Coddington, John Clarke and others, and in 1639 by the settlement of Newport. The founders of all three towns sought freedom in religious matters, which could not be found in Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Nicholas Easton was fined for coming to meeting without arms as early as 1639, and in 1641, a year after Portsmouth and Newport had united, Rufus Jones states: "Newport people arranged themselves into two religious groups. One party with Coddington, Coggeshall and Nicholas Easton as leaders formulated views which seem extraordinarily akin to those later held by the Society of Friends; while the other group, led by John Clarke, formed a Baptist Church."¹ Winthrop states that the same year: "Mrs. Hutchinson and those of Aquidy island [after 1644 the Island of Rhode Island] broached new heresies every year. Divers of them turned professed anabaptists [who held strongly to inward experience in religion], and would not bear any arms . . ."² Lechford who lived on Rhode Island from 1638 to 1641 states: "At the other end of the Island there is another town called Portsmouth, but no [established] church; there is a meeting of some men who there teach one another and call it prophesie."³ "This looks as though a meeting was being held in Portsmouth at this date in which members spoke as they felt 'moved' (for that is what 'in the way of prophesie' means), exactly as the Quaker meeting was held a little later."⁴ There was, it plainly appears, thus differentiated here in Newport, fifteen years before the coming of the Quakers, a group of persons who were Quakers in everything but name."⁵ This was six years before George Fox began his religious activity in England.

In July, 1656, Ann Austin and Mary Fisher, two members of the Society of Friends, arrived in Boston from Barbadoes on the SWALLOW, Simon Kempthorn, master. Although there were no laws against Quakers, these women were seized, imprisoned for five weeks in darkness, stripped and searched for "witch marks", their books burned, and if it had not been for Nicholas Upsall, who bribed the jailor five shillings a week to allow them food, they would have starved. They were then sent back to England. The General Court, with the sanction of the "Commissioners of the United Provinces," passed a law at the October 14th session in 1656 which imposed severe penalties on the master of any ship who landed Quakers within its jurisdiction. By 1657 this law was well known in England and passage for Quakers became very difficult.

Robert Fowler of Bridlington, a member of the Society of Friends for four years, felt called upon to build a ship, and offer it to Friends for a voyage across the Atlantic. It was too small for ocean travel, but Fowler in his log states: "We saw the Lord leading our vessel as it were a man lead-

-
1. Rufus M. Jones, The Quakers in the American Colonies, p. 23.
 2. John Winthrop, History of New England, 1826, II, p. 38
 3. Thomas Lechford, Plaine Dealing, 1642, p. 41.
 4. Jones, p. 25.
 5. Jones, pp. 24-5.

ing a horse by the hand."¹ Eleven Friends took advantage of the opportunity to sail for America. Six had been deported to London, so this was their second voyage. They were:

The five who were making their first voyage were:

Christopher Holder
John Copeland
William Brend
Sarah Gibbons
Mary Wetherhead
Dorothy Waught

William Robinson
Humphrey Norton
Richard Dondney
Robert Hodgson
Mary Clark

The WOODHOUSE set sail the first day of the fourth month (June), 1657. Exactly two months later she arrived at New Amsterdam (New York). Five Friends were put ashore there and the remaining six were landed by the WOODHOUSE at Newport, two days later. They were:

Christopher Holder
John Copeland
William Brend
William Robinson
Humphrey Norton
Mary Clark

"Rhode Island was the most favorable and receptive spot in North America for them to light upon. It had been preparing through a score of years for exactly the seed that was now to be sown. Here at last was a little corner of the earth consecrated to freedom of belief and worship, where one could follow his inward light without fear of dungeon or gibbet."² To what an extent Rhode Island was receptive may be judged from a later paragraph: "Some of the foremost families among the founders of the Rhode Island Colony - William Coddington, Joshua Coggeshall, son of John, Nicholas Easton and his son, John and Walter Clarke, son of Jeremiah Clarke, an original founder, appear to have accepted the Quaker faith as soon as they heard it, and at once became pillars in the first Quaker meeting in the New World. With them came over to Quakerism, it would seem, a large number of the inhabitants of the island . . ."³

On September 12, 1657, the Commissioners of the United Colonies wrote to Rhode Island asking her to banish the Quakers there and prohibit their future residence.⁴ Rhode Island replied, Oct. 13, 1657, in a letter signed by Benedict Arnold, which said in part: "We have no law among us whereby to punish any for only declaring by words etc. their mindes and understandings concerning the ways of God . . ."

In a letter to John Clarke in London from the Rhode Island Assembly we can get a clear picture of how Quaker activities affected Rhode Island and

1. Robert Fowler's Log, as quoted in Jones, p. 45.

2. Rufus M. Jones, The Quakers in the American Colonies, p. 52.

3. Jones, p. 53

4. Ebenezer Hazard, Historical Collections, II, pp. 370-71.

David Pulsifer, editor, Records of the Colony of New Plymouth, X, pp. 180-81,

the neighboring colonies. It reads in part: "Wee have won a new occasion given by an old spirit with respect to the collonys about us, which seeme to be offended with us because of a sort of people called by the name Quakers, who are amongst us, and have raised up divers who seeme at present to be of their spirit; whereat the collonies aboute us seeme to be offended with us, beinge the said people have their liberty amongst us, as entertayned into our houses, or into any of our assemblies; and for the present we have found noe just cause to charge them with the breach of the civil peace, only they are constantly goeing forth amongst them about us, and vex and trouble them in poynt of their religion and sperittual state, though they return with many a fowle scarr in their bodies for the same . . ."

At about this time John Rous wrote to Margaret Fell in England: "The truth is spread here above two hundred miles . . . we have two strong places in this land; the one at Newport in Rhode Island and the other at Sandwich (Mass.) . . . there are Friends few or more, almost from one end of the land to the other, that is inhabited by the English."¹

At the October 19th session of the General Court of Massachusetts in 1658, a statute was passed, by one vote, exiling all Friends, both colonists and strangers, on pain of death. The law was first enforced about six months later.² From this time to about 1661 most historians devote their pages to tales of persecution and suffering among the Friends in the United Colonies, including the hanging of Mary Dyer of Newport on Boston Common, June 1, 1660.

The picture was more serene in Rhode Island. Friends continued to hold a yearly meeting and membership in their Society continued to grow. A Yearly Meeting of more than usual significance was held in 1671. Friends from the colonies of Long Island, the Jerseys, and probably Virginia and Maryland attended. As early as 1666, the Quakers were of sufficient strength in Rhode Island to refuse a proposition for enforcing an oath of Allegiance. In 1672, "the Governor, Deputy Governor and Magistrates were all chosen from among them, and the affairs of the colony came under their management."³ Bowden felt that this not only marked a new era in the Society of Friends, but in the Christian world. Whether it did or not, it certainly demonstrated clearly that Quaker influence had come to the front in fifteen years.

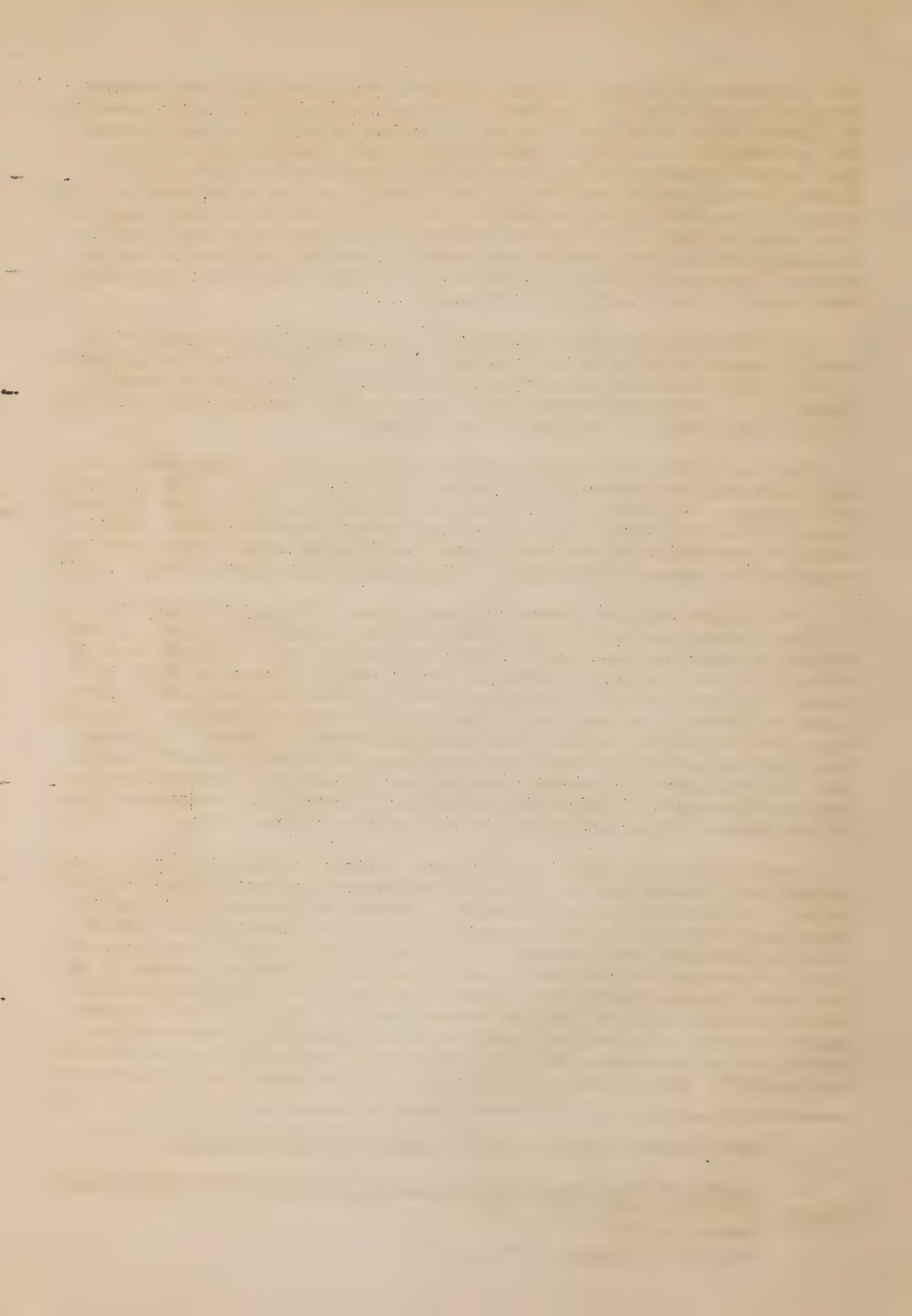
George Fox the founder of the Society arrived at Newport, May 30, 1672, having come from England by the way of Barbadoes, Maryland, Jersey and Long Island. His arrival caused the greatest revival of interest in Friends affairs since the first Friends arrived in 1657. Fox stayed at the home of Nicholas Easton who was Governor of the whole colony, under the charter of 1663. Friends held a meeting the next first day and Fox was pleased to see the Deputy Governor and several Justices present. The following week the Yearly Meeting took place and Fox records in his Journal that the Governor, Deputy Governor, with several Justices of the Peace daily frequented the meeting and so encouraged the people "that they flocked in from all parts of the Island."⁴ He held successful meetings in Providence "before many sorts

1. James Bowden, History of the Society of Friends in America, 1850, I, p. 155.

2. Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1854, IV, part I, pp. 345-6.

3. Bowden, p. 297.

4. George Fox, Journal, 1694, p. 368



and sects of people", and in Narragansett. Some at Newport spoke of hiring him as preacher. When he heard this he said, "It is time for me to be gone: for if their Eye was so much to Me, or any of Us, they would not come to [be] their own Teacher. For this thing (of hiring Ministers) had spoiled many, by hindring them from improving their own Talents; whereas our Labour is, to bring every one to their own Teacher in themselves."¹ Soon after this, Fox sailed, arriving at Shelter Island three days later. He left John Stubbs and John Burnyeat in Rhode Island, "to water what had been Planted by the Lord there."

It was about this time that the "collision" between Roger Williams and George Fox occurred. It was a collision of ideas only. Williams had appeared at the Yearly Meeting in Newport in 1671 as any one was permitted to do, but, when he attempted to speak, the Governor's wife started to pray. When she finished he made another attempt, but he was "stopt by John Burnetts sudden falling to Prayer and dismissing the Assembly."² Roger, plainly, did not consider this cricket. When Fox was in Providence, Roger kept away: "Having once tried to get public speech in the Assembly of Friends" he resolved to try another way and "to make a fair and Solemn offer of dispute about these matters."³ "At present, therefore, he contented himself with preparing fourteen propositions to be submitted to Fox as the basis for a public debate, in accordance with a General challenge issued through Fox's book, The Great Mistery, etc. The propositions were sent to Deputy Governor Cranston, to be delivered to Fox, but through the delay (probably intentional) of the messenger (himself a Quaker) did not reach the former till Fox had some hours departed on his way to Shelter Island."⁴ Williams accused Fox of "silly departing", but it is not likely that Fox knew of the offered dispute. Burnyeat, Stubbs, and Edmundson accepted Williams' proposition, and the dispute was carried on three days in Newport, covering the first seven points. Another day was taken in Providence for the last seven. Incidentally, Williams, who was at least 67, "rowed" 30 miles to Newport, getting there at midnight before the day of the debate. The result was what might be expected, considering the points. The propositions were declared by Williams, and their truth denied by the Friends. Both sides claimed exclusive use of the truth at the start, and still felt the same way at the finish. Their opinions of each other are interesting. Edmundson called Williams "an old Priest . . . an Enemy of Truth . . . a bitter old man."⁵ Williams called Stubbs "learned in Latin and Greek" and Burnyeat "a good speaker," but Edmundson "a flash of wit, a face of Brass, and a tongue set on fire from the Hell of Lyes and Fury."⁶

In 1673 a law was passed in Rhode Island exempting from penalty those who had conscientious scruples against military service, but it did not relieve them from civil duties.⁷ This, of course, reflected the power now

1. George Fox, Journal, 1694, p. 368.
2. Roger Williams, George Fox Digg'd out of his Burrowes, 1676, p. 12.
3. Williams, p. 12.
4. Irving B. Richman, Rhode Island, Its Making and Meaning, 1908, pp. 420-21.
5. William Edmundson, Journal, 1715, pp. 65-6.
6. Rufus M. Jones, The Quakers in the American Colonies, p. 118, note.
7. Rhode Island Colony Records, 1671-1686, II, p. 33.

held in the colony by Friends. This power was further shown when the Governor refused to make any preparations for, or indulge in any war against the Indians who were on the war-path at this time. The Island of Rhode Island where the Governor and most of the Friends resided was not touched, but unfortunately Providence, Warwick, and other mainland settlements were burned. Resentment against the Friends put Benedict Arnold back in the Governor's chair.

"The first half of the eighteenth century was the blooming time of the Society of Friends in most parts of Rhode Island . . . In Newport, Quakerism was thriving under the gentle teachings of the calm and persuasive Friend, Samuel Fothergill. But while on the Island of Rhode Island, at the very beginning of the century, it had already become so well established that half of the inhabitants were Quakers and about one-third of the houses of worship were theirs, it was not until this period that the system began to expand itself most rapidly upon the main land, meeting houses being built in quick succession at Greenwich, Lower Smithfield (Saylesville), Woonsocket and Providence." ¹ In those days it was said, "the people of Greenwich were Quakers or nothing." However, soon after the middle of the century this prosperity began to decline. The numbers of members diminished, older people died and the young strayed away to other places, where other modes of worship were presented. While we are actually speaking of the eighteenth century, it is the secret of the further decline in Quakerism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In 1772 there were two thousand people at the Yearly Meeting; the next year, the Yearly Meeting denied that Friends should thereafter hold slaves; and in 1784 the Rhode Island Legislature passed Stephen Hopkins' bill which forever prohibited enslaving of "Negroes, Mulattoes or others who shall be born within the Limits of this State, on or after the First Day of March, A. D. 1784."²

The general condition of the Society of Friends in Rhode Island during the nineteenth century was one of advance and decline, tending strongly toward the latter. The figures follow:

| | | |
|------|------|---------|
| 1813 | 1150 | members |
| 1836 | 1139 | " |
| 1853 | 953 | " |
| 1900 | 957 | " |

The Hicksite movement which split the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, see forthcoming Pennsylvania Inventory of Church Archives, made little if any impression in Rhode Island. Hicksite Friends came from outside the state to hold small gatherings, but there is no evidence of any regular meeting gaining a foothold.

In 1833 President Andrew Jackson visited Moses Brown School and complimented the aging Moses Brown, who showed him the institution.

In 1838 John Joseph Gurney of London Yearly Meeting visited and preached in Rhode Island. He advocated a more liberal interpretation of the doctrines.

1. Edward Field, editor, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century, 1902, II, p. 112.

2. Acts & Resolves, Feb. 1784.

John Wilbur, of Hopkinton, who was not in agreement with Gurney's liberal views, spoke against them in England as well as in America. Friends found themselves obliged to take sides on the question. The feeling ran so high that South Kingstown Monthly Meeting was asked to disown Wilbur. This they refused to do, so they were discontinued, their Preparative Meetings reporting to Greenwich Monthly Meeting. Greenwich Monthly Meeting then disowned Wilbur. Wilbur and his followers, numbering about 500 of the 7,000 Friends then in New England, established another Yearly Meeting called the New England Yearly Meeting, see entries for Society of Friends (Wilburites). Subordinate meetings also divided on the Wilbur question and in several cases took the same name as the meeting from which they separated. South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) and Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) are examples of this. The reason for taking the same name was that both Orthodox and Wilburite groups felt that they alone were the true continuing body of the Society of Friends after the Wilburite split.

While the number of Friends was decreasing during this century and disputes were causing them to lose some of their former prestige, there was a bright spot in the success of the Yearly Meeting Boarding School, now called Moses Brown School, see entry 2.

The story of the Friends in Rhode Island in the twentieth century is still one of steady decline in membership. It has diminished to about half in number since 1900.

The organization of the Society of Friends begins with the Meeting for Worship, a non-business meeting corresponding, in a way, to the Sunday congregation of other denominations. The Monthly Meeting, composed of several Meetings for Worship, is a business meeting that keeps records. These consist of minutes, registers, financial records (if any; many are entered in minute books) and minutes of Ministry and Oversight. The Quarterly Meeting,¹ composed of several Monthly Meetings, meets four times a year to consider business needing the attention of a higher meeting, and to receive reports from its component Monthly Meetings. Minutes are kept, as well as some financial records, and minutes of Ministry and Oversight. The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England² is composed of several Quarterly Meetings. The Yearly Meetings are supreme in authority in their particular part of the country. They receive reports from their Quarterly Meetings, consider business that has been referred to them by the lower meetings and conduct religious and charitable work thru various committees and boards, some of which are considered permanent.

A word about the London Yearly Meeting might not be out of place at this point. While it is true that Yearly Meetings are autonomous in their territory, a special relation existed between London Yearly Meeting and the American Yearly Meetings, particularly in the early days. This was due

1. The two Quarterly Meetings in Rhode Island meet only in the 5th, 8th, and 11th month.

2. Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings refer to the business session, and also to geographical limits or to the group of Meetings or persons composing one of them. Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings for business also hold a meeting for worship at the same time.

largely to George Fox's influence on Friends everywhere. While the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England was in no sense subordinate to London Yearly Meeting, Epistles from the London meeting were eagerly read by American Friends and the London way of handling problems was carefully noted.

Jones states,¹ "The sittings of London Yearly Meeting, which was always looked upon as the parent body, though without being officially recognized as head and without direct authority over the corresponding bodies in America, were occasions of august dignity, of deep searching of heart, of weighty deliberation, and often of powerful spiritual messages. The Meeting issued an annual Epistle which set forth the substance of its spiritual deliberations during the sittings, and these Epistles now reveal more clearly than do any other documents what was the focus of attention of the body from year to year." And,² "While in local matters the American meetings were supreme each within its limits, they all paid great respect to the letters of George Fox and the official epistles of London Yearly Meeting. These were both doctrinal and practical, stating the theory of the meeting for worship, setting up the church machinery, giving directions as to the treatment of delinquents and of the poor, advice as to business, dress, and language, and a multitude of other details."

In 1887 and 1892 there were Conferences with representatives present from most of the American Yearly Meetings (Orthodox) except Philadelphia. In 1897 there were 129 delegates present from most of the Yearly Meetings. A closer association and a uniform Discipline were the most important subjects discussed. In 1902 the Fourth Quinquennial Conference was held at Indianapolis. Delegates were appointed by the same Yearly Meetings that were represented in previous Conferences. One session only was held, at which the new Discipline, called "The Constitution and Discipline for the American Yearly Meetings of Friends," was received. The committee preparing it reported eleven Yearly Meetings had accepted the plan of union, adopted the new Discipline and appointed delegates to the new Five Years Meeting which would take the place of the Conference.

The first Five Years Meeting met the next day, 1902, 22nd of 10th month. 137 delegates, most of whom had been delegates to the Conference, represented all the American Yearly Meetings (Orthodox) except Philadelphia. The Ohio and Canada Meetings were represented, but their delegates entered the discussion only, neither accepting committee appointments nor voting. The proceedings were according to parliamentary usage, an unusual feature for a Friends' meeting. Unlike other Friends' meetings the Five Years Meeting conducts its business solely thru delegates appointed to it by various Yearly Meetings in America.

The Five Years Meeting in accordance with the new Discipline appointed boards on Church Extension, Education, Legislation, and Welfare of Negroes. On foreign missions, Indian affairs, and peace, it adopted the American Friends Board of Foreign Missions, the Associated Executive Committee on Indian Affairs, and the Peace Association of Friends in America as its representatives.

1. Jones, Later Periods of Quakerism, I, p. 111.

2. Jones, Quakers in the American Colonies, p. 438.

In 1932 the regular Five Years Meeting was not held; in fact it seems to have been postponed until 1935. The Minutes of the 1935 Meeting give the following list of important committees:

American Friends Board of Missions

Including:

Women's Missionary Union

Committee on Indian Affairs

Peace Association

Prohibition and Public Morals

Board on Religious Education

Publication Board

Board on Education

Board on Young Friends Activities

Commission on Friendly Training of Ministers and Members

Committee on Ministerial Relief

By action of the Five Years Meeting in 1927, the American Friends Board of Foreign Missions, and the Board of Home Missions of the Five Years Meeting were merged into one Board called the American Friends Board of Missions. Activities of this Board are carried on in Africa, China, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Palestine, Tennessee, and among western Indians.

The American Friends Service Committee, perhaps the most important board reporting to the Five Years Meeting, has centers in Geneva, Paris, Vienna, and Berlin in cooperation with the Friends Service Council, of London and Dublin Yearly Meetings. This great relief agency, representing 23 of the 29 Yearly Meetings on the American continent, gained much praise, and contributions of millions of dollars from Friends and non-Friends for distribution of food, medicine and shelter to countries torn by the Great War of 1914-18. Practically all food distributed to German children after the War was handled by this committee. More recently over a quarter of a million dollars was given by the International Federation of Trade Unions to be administered by the committee in Vienna. The Committee includes a Peace section and a Home Service section.

The Five Years Meeting and the American Friends Service Committee are two vital forces in the Society of Friends in America today.

ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| alph. | alphabetically |
| approx. | approximately |
| chap. | chapter |
| etc. | et cetera (and so forth) |
| ft. | feet |
| ibid. | ibidem (in the same place) |
| mo. | month |
| M.M. | Monthly Meeting |
| ms., mss. | manuscript, manuscripts |
| no. | number |
| p., pp. | page, pages |
| Q. M. | Quarterly Meeting |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| S.K. | South Kingstown |
| St. | before a name, Saint; after a name, street |
| vol., vols. | volume, volumes |
| Y.M. | Yearly Meeting |
| £ | pounds sterling |
| -- | to date (of publication), current |
| . . . | indicates omission of part of a quotation. |

Advices

Recommendations regarding a course of conduct. While failure to follow such Advices would be deplored by Friends, it would not be considered sufficient cause for dismissal from the Society.

Annexed

Used when one meeting is joined to another.

Certificates

Where certificates are mentioned, they usually refer to certificates of removal to or from a meeting. They may have been copied from the minutes, or in rare cases, they may have been entered in a separate volume as Removals or Certificates.

Denials

A record of persons denied membership in the Society of Friends for violation of the Discipline.

Discipline (Friends' beliefs and practices; when gathered in a volume, Book of Discipline)

The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England (Orthodox), a member of the Five Years Meeting, adopted the Discipline of that body in 1900, 12th of 6th mo., to become effective in 1901, 18th of 6th mo.

The New England Yearly Meeting states in Faith and Practice, 1930, that the 1926 Discipline of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was adopted, after certain necessary changes and modifications had been made.

The Providence Friends Fellowship Group has not officially adopted a Discipline.

Elders

A small group of men and women appointed by members of the Monthly Meetings to assist the Ministers. They assist by opening and closing meetings and by giving spiritual guidance to members of their meeting.

Epistles

Letters from one Yearly Meeting to another. Epistles usually contain greetings, state the condition of the meeting sending the epistle, and discuss problems of the sender, and of the meeting to which the letter is sent. Matters of general interest to all Friends are also discussed. Epistles may be addressed to a specific meeting or may be more general in character and sent to several Yearly Meetings.

Indulged Meeting

See Privileged Meeting.

Laid down

Term used when a meeting becomes defunct.

Manumissions

Records of the freeing of slaves by their Quaker owners.

Meeting for Sufferings

A committee appointed by a Yearly Meeting, including representatives from its Quarterly Meetings, with authority to act for the Yearly Meeting when that meeting is not in session. In the early days it concerned itself with recording persecutions or sufferings of Friends. Later, its records show the value of goods seized, in lieu of fines, during the Revolutionary War. See Permanent Board for evolution of this committee in the Society of Friends (Orthodox).

Memorials

A memorial is a written tribute, prepared by the Overseers of a meeting, or by individuals or committees specifically designated, to commemorate the name of an outstanding member who has recently died. Memorials, as listed in Friends records, are a collection of such tributes.

Ministers

A small group of men and women appointed to the local ministry by members of the Monthly Meetings, who feel that such persons "have a gift for the ministry." The Ministers, with the Elders, are responsible for the spiritual guidance of their meeting.

Ministers and Elders

In the Society of Friends (Orthodox) this is an earlier name for records now called Ministry and Oversight. In the Society of Friends (Wilburite) the name is still used for this series of records.

Ministry and Oversight

Records kept of meetings held by Ministers, Elders and Overseers together, in connexion with Monthly, Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

Missing Records

Records missing from a series will be indicated by a break in the continuity of the dates. Where such a break occurs, it should be understood that no records were found for those years.

Organization

In the Society of Friends, while each meeting is autonomous, the Meetings for Worship, whether Preparative Meetings or not, are subordinate to Monthly Meetings, Monthly Meetings are subordinate to Quarterly Meetings, and Quarterly Meetings are in turn subordinate to the Yearly Meeting. For this reason the meetings have been listed in the order of their importance, chronologically, by date of organization.

Overseers

Two or more men and women appointed by each Monthly Meeting to have pastoral care of the members. They report to the Monthly Meeting. In the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England (Orthodox) they meet with the Ministers and Elders. Records of these meetings will be found under Ministry and Oversight since the 19th century, before that under Ministers and Elders.

In the New England Yearly Meeting they meet with Ministers and Elders. Records of these meetings will be found under Ministers and Elders.

Particular Meeting

A Meeting for Worship, capitalized in this Inventory, belonging to a Monthly Meeting.

Permanent Board

Society of Friends (Orthodox). It was called Meeting for Sufferings until 1872; Representative Meeting, 1872-1887; Permanent Board, 1887--. Consists of not over 50 members, so selected that each Quarterly Meeting in the Yearly Meeting is represented. "It shall represent the Yearly Meeting in the interim of its annual assemblies, and it may act on behalf of the Yearly Meeting in cases where the interest or reputation of the Friends may render it necessary."¹

Preparative Meeting

Some Meetings for Worship were permitted by their Monthly Meeting to transact business for themselves, and sometimes for one or two other Meetings for Worship. Their principal function was to appoint representatives to the Monthly Meeting, and to answer Queries. The Thomases in their History of the Friends, 4th ed., 1905, in a note, p. 19, state, "Preparative Meetings have been abolished in those Yearly Meetings adopting the Discipline [of the 5 years Meeting], though Monthly Meetings have the power to establish 'local meetings for business'." Faith and Practice, 1930, of the New England Yearly Meeting (Wilburite), on p. 112 states, "While it has been stated

1. Constitution and Discipline (Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England), effective 1901, 18th of 6th mo.

Preparative Meeting (cont.)

that Preparative Meetings usually are not meetings of record, there are instances when such meetings have important property rights and hold title to real estate and other assets. When such is the case, or when other similar interests are involved, care should be taken by Preparative Meetings to keep records appropriate to the purpose and of the same character as herein designated for Monthly Meetings."

Privileged Meeting

Meeting held by a few Friends apart from a regular meeting, by permission of some Monthly Meeting; usually when travel conditions made it impossible to attend regular Meetings for Worship, or when members of a group lived a long way from the meeting place.

Removals

A record of persons moving to the jurisdiction of another meeting who have been given removal certificates stating that they are in good standing with Friends.

Representative Meeting

See Permanent Board.

Set off

Used when a new meeting is formed by the division of another meeting.

Set up

Used to denote the beginning of a new meeting.

Society of Friends (Orthodox)

The Larger Body after 1845. For purposes of convenience, considered to be the original Society of Friends, 1657--.

Society of Friends (Otis)

The General Meeting Friends or the Smallest Body. This group broke away from the Wilburites in 1863 and formed a third New England Yearly Meeting at Newport called the General Meeting (Otis), which became New England Quarterly Meeting (Otis), with Yearly Meeting powers, in 1885. Rejoined Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) in 1911.

The history and records of this group in Rhode Island is included in the story of the Foster Friends because they were the only Friends in the State affected by the Otis split.

Society of Friends (Wilburite)

The Smaller Body after 1845. This group broke away from the Society of Friends (Orthodox), 1844-5, to form their own meetings.

Society of Friends (Wilburite) (cont.)

The organization of Wilburite meetings is much the same as that given in the explanation for each kind of Orthodox meeting. One exception may be noted in respect to Meetings for Worship. All Wilburite Meetings for Worship seem to be Preparative Meetings.

Stated Meeting

See Particular Meeting.

Sufferings

See Meeting for Sufferings.

Suspended or discontinued

Used when a meeting is closed, perhaps temporarily; sometimes the meeting actually becomes defunct.

Testimonies

An individual, or Friends in general, might have a testimony for peace, or prohibition, or against slavery. It is, in other words, a belief or conviction. Friends were urged to maintain their testimonies for what they believed to be right, even if it meant suffering punishment.

Although it seems to be more common practice to record a testimony as a minute, Rhode Island Monthly Meeting (Orthodox), entry 7, for instance, has kept them as a separate record.

Note: The Society of Friends use the Biblical system of numbering months and days. The order of year, day, and month, i.e. 1699, 1st of 3rd mo., has been adopted as standard in this Inventory. It should be remembered that England (and the American Colonies) adopted the Gregorian Calendar in September 1752, making January the first month in 1753. Previously, March was the first month. This will be noticed particularly in reference to the date of the Yearly Meeting, which was held in June. In 1752 June was the 4th mo.; after 1753 it became the 6th mo.

Depository Vault at Moses Brown School for records of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England

Since Moses Brown School was run by the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, and since the Yearly Meeting was formerly held there on alternate years, it was only natural to choose the School as a place of deposit for Friends' records in the New England section.

In 1912 a fire-proof vault of brick and steel was built into the East end of the basement of the main school building. The dimensions follow: Outside, 14'6" x 9'9" x 7'7" high; inside, 11' x 6' x 6'6" high. There are 70 linear feet of adjustable steel shelves, with room for about 40 linear feet of additional shelving. There are double steel doors in the middle of the South wall, the outside door having a combination lock.

Depository Vault at Moses Brown School (cont.)

This vault provides a depository for about 300 original manuscript volumes of records of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England and subordinate meetings. The records of any subordinate meeting might, for a very good reason, be returned to that meeting, but in actual practice the records, once deposited, remain in the vault.

There is no catalogue. There is, however, a typed list of the records, arranged as the records are, by Yearly, Quarterly, or Monthly Meetings. This list is further divided into the meetings in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. When a librarian is appointed for the school he will also have charge of cataloguing and arranging records in the vault.

The vault is in charge of a committee of three, appointed by the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England. Mr. Thomas, headmaster of the school, is a member. Access to the vault must be obtained thru the committee, and someone appointed by the committee must stay with any searcher while he is in the vault.

No provision is made for the purchase, sale, exchange, or conditional deposit of records.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS - ORTHODOX

Yearly Meeting

The Yearly Meeting in the Society of Friends is attended by delegates or representatives, appointed by its Quarterly Meetings to assure attendance, by members of subordinate meetings, and sometimes by others (not members) who may wish to attend. The last group may participate in the meeting, but business affairs, of course, would be settled by Friends.

Business of the meeting consists of discussion of current activities, consideration of reports of all committees appointed by the Yearly Meeting, including a Financial Committee made up of representatives from each Quarterly Meeting, and discussion of any new business presented by subordinate meetings or by individuals.

The first morning business session is conducted by the presiding officers of the last Yearly Meeting. After this morning session, delegates to the present Yearly Meeting meet, with a chairman chosen by tradition, perhaps the first delegate named from a specific Quarterly Meeting, and choose presiding officers. The names of the new officers are presented to the Yearly Meeting at the afternoon session, and if they are approved (and they usually are) they immediately take their places as presiding officers of the present Yearly Meeting.

Except in the case of the Five Years Meeting, to which the Society of Friends (Orthodox) sends delegates, no Friends' meeting connected with Rhode Island uses the parliamentary system, or votes upon matters presented for its consideration. After the new presiding clerk has been approved by the meeting, he or she (women having equality with men in Friends' affairs) listens to those who wish to speak on each question brought before the meeting. He considers the speaker as well as the opinion being given. Since there is no vote, and no such thing as majority rule in the Society of Friends, the character, wisdom, and importance generally of those speaking is considered by the presiding clerk. When, in his opinion, the "sense of the meeting" is clearly shown, he so states. If no speaker rises to challenge the clerk's statement, the recording clerk makes a note from which a minute is written. If there seems to be some uncertainty about the feeling of the meeting the presiding clerk may permit the continuance of the discussion or he may say that the meeting does not seem "clear" on the question, and put the whole discussion over until the next Yearly Meeting.

At the close of every business session each minute is read. If there is no opposition, the minute is adopted and the future conduct of the meeting is bound by this minute. While presiding clerks are careful to get the "sense of the meeting" before making a minute, it is possible that when a minute is read there will still be opposition to the position taken. The clerk may permit further discussion. If the opposition is strong the minute will not be accepted and further discussion or postponement of discussion until the next meeting may be in order. Often a committee is appointed by the meeting to get facts which will help in deciding some question, the committee to report their findings at the next meeting.

The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England (Orthodox) has a Junior

Yearly Meeting, held during the same days as the adult meeting, which has its own officers and program. Their program includes subscriptions for charitable works, daily meetings for worship and business, Bible half-hours, an epistle to the adult meeting, study of the lives of former well-known Friends, and visits from adult Friends.

The Yearly Meeting has always had its social as well as religious and business side. Especially in the old days, the Yearly Meeting was one of the main events of the year in Newport. Friends and non-Friends from the Colony attended, as well as Friends from other Yearly Meetings in New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina.

1. YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS FOR NEW ENGLAND (ORTHODOX), 1661--.

Note: This group of Friends, known as the Larger Body after the Wilbur split in 1845, and referred to in Religious Bodies as the Society of Friends, (Orthodox), represents the majority of Friends, in number at least, in New England, from 1661 to the present time.

The Friends celebrated their 250th anniversary of the Yearly Meeting in 1910. This would make 1660 the date of the first meeting. Peter Pearson, while in prison in Plymouth, wrote a letter to some Friends abroad: "Upon the Ninth-day of the Fourth Month, 1659, the Fourth-day of the week, all of us English Friends that were abroad in this country, had a meeting upon Rhode Island" (William I. Hull, et al., "Early History of the Friends at Newport" in Early Religious Leaders of Newport, Newport, 1918). This, it would seem, makes the first meeting a year earlier. However, to balance matters, there are several references to the first Yearly Meeting being held in 1661. George Rofe in a letter¹ to Richard Hubberthorn from Barbadoes written in 1661 says: "--and I came in Rhode Island and we appointed a general meeting for all Friends in those parts, which was a very great meeting and very precious and continued four days together." Additional matter on this subject is found in Bishop, New England Judged, 1661: "About that time [1661] the General Meeting at Rhode Island, about sixty miles from Boston was set up and you (the inhabitants of Boston) made an Alarm that the Quakers were gathering together to kill the people and fire the town of Boston!" Unfortunately, the minute records before 1683 were not found (it is possible none were kept) so the exact year is not definitely established.

From 1660, if that was the date of the first meeting, until 1777 the Yearly Meeting was held annually in Newport; first meetings at home of William Coddington. From 1777 until 1781 the Yearly Meeting was held in Smithfield because of the British occupation of Newport. From 1781 to about 1890 the meeting was held in Newport; then the Friends in Maine protested against the long journey to Rhode Island and alternate meetings began at Vassalboro (near Augusta, Maine) and Newport. In 1905 the Newport meeting was transferred to Providence, and alternate annual meetings were held at Providence and Vassalboro until the 1931 meeting at Providence, with the exception of 1926 when they met at the State of Maine Y.M.C.A. Camps, Winthrop Center,

1. James Bowden, History of the Society of Friends in America, 1850, I, p. 230.

Society of Friends - Orthodox

Maine. From 1932 to the present time, the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England has been held at Ocean Park, Maine.

At first a large general meeting, the Yearly Meeting was operated on a system of definite representation after the start of the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, in 1699. The territory included in this Meeting is New England, as far west as the Connecticut River.

See: Author unknown, A Brief Account of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Providence, Marshall and Brown, 1836, 36 pp. Providence Sunday Journal, June 18, 1911, Sec. IV, p. 11. Rufus M. Jones, The Quakers in the American Colonies, London, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., 1923, 603 pp. Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Minutes, Providence, Knowles & Vose (and others), 1847-- , 75 pp. average.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| 101-8 | Men's Minutes | 8 vols. | 1683-1895 | Vols. 101-4, separate paper covered index; vols. 105-8, marginal indexed. |
| 109-12, and current vol. | Joint Sessions | 5 vols. | 1896-- | Marginal indexed. (Vol. for 1922-- , Mrs. Lyra T. Wolkins, 95 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands, Mass.) |
| 201-7 | Women's Minutes | 7 vols. | 1764-1875 | Vol. 201 also contains Rhode Island Q.M. Minutes of Women Friends, 1706-1783, entry 5. |
| 209 | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1892-96 | Joint Sessions began 1896. See Joint Sessions, vol. 109. |
| 1 | Women's Foreign Missionary Society | 1 vol. | 1884-97 | |
| 5,10,11 | Treasurer's Account | 3 vols. | 1779-1908 | |
| | Other Financial Records | | | Included in Minutes. |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School

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| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|---|
| 219 (Parcel VII, Misc.807) | Meeting for Sufferings | 1 vol. | 1720-62 | |
| 220-22 | Meeting for Sufferings | 3 vols. | 1775-1887 | Vol. 220 contains also original manuscript for a pamphlet issued by Meeting for Sufferings, 1782. Name changed from Meeting for Sufferings to Representative Meeting, 1872 (21st of 6th mo.) |
| 223 and unnumbered volume | Permanent Board | 2 vols. | 1887-- | Meets for business, whenever necessary, between Yearly Meetings. (Vol. for 1925--, Alfred Osborne, North Weare, N.H.) |
| 250-51 | Ministers and Elders | 2 vols. | 1707-1846 | |
| 252 and unnum- bered vol. | Ministry and Oversight | 2 vols. | 1847-- | (Vol. for 1912--, Agnes W. Harrison, South Road, Holden, Mass.) |
| 300 | S.C.[School Committee] Preliminary | 1 vol. | 1780-82 | Contains extracts from Yearly Meeting records on question of a school for Friends' children. |
| 400 | Ancient Epistles, Minutes and Ad- vices or Disci- pline | 1 vol. | 1672-1708 | Alphabetical index. Begins: "What George Fox declared at Thomas Rouse's house at Barbadoes at the Women's Meeting." Property of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, Newport, and contains Minutes of Women's Meeting held at Newport, 1708, 17th of 6th mo. (Steel cabinet, in vault) |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 410,415 | Written Discipline by Yearly Meeting in London | 2 vols. | 1756 & 1762 | Tables of Contents. |
| 500 | Testimonies | 1 vol. | 1761-1841 | Alphabetical index. |
| 501 | Memorials | 1 vol. | 1843-68 | |
| 502 | Testimonies | 1 vol. | 1871-74 | |
| 530(1)(2) | Book of Epistles | 2 vols. | 1681-1857 | Index in second volume for both volumes. |
| 540 | Young Friends Christian Fellowship Union | 1 vol. | 1889-1907 | Minutes of annual meetings. |
| 891 (Parcel XVI) | Extract from a Minute of New England Yearly Meeting | 1 vol. | 1755 | Relating to Queries. 3 pp. |
| 892 (Parcel XVI) | Discipline - Extracts from Yearly Meeting for New England | 1 vol. | 1708-9 | 6 pp. |
| | Memorials of deceased Friends | 1 vol. | 1841 | |
| | Records of Committee on Indians | 1 vol. | 1837-44 | Western Indians. Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England conducted its own missionary work out west at that time. |
| (Parcel X, Misc.) | Manuscript (Clerk's original draft) of several Yearly Meetings | 7 small notebooks | 1845,1854, 1859,1861, 1862,1864 | |

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| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|---|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | A Record of Names of Ministering Friends who visited Rhode Island, from the year 1656 to 1700; and of those who after the latter date visited Long Island | 1 vol. | 1656-1700 | A list of American Friends who made religious visits abroad, inserted between the pages. (Society of Friends Library, New York.) |
| <u>Note:</u> The following entries are printed items in custody of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England. | | | | |
| 420-428 & unnumbered volume | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , Providence, printed by John Carter, 1785, 155 pp. (Peace Buffum's name in front of unnumbered volume.) | | | |
| 439 | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , New Bedford, Abraham Shearman, Jun., printer, 1809, 156 pp. (Two copies of same vol., both #439.) | | | |
| 440 444 | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , reprint of 1809 edition, place not given, B. Lindsey & Co., printers, 1826, 156 pp. | | | |
| 441 & two unnumbered volumes | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , reprint of 1809 edition, Providence, Knowles & Vose, printers, 1840, 156 pp. | | | |
| 443(1) (2) | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , reprint of 1809 edition, Providence, Joseph Knowles, 1849, 156 pp. | | | |
| 443(3) (4) | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , reprint of 1809 edition, New Bedford, Edmund Anthony, printer, 1856, 153 pp. (slightly larger page than original edition and other reprints). | | | |
| 445 | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , New Bedford, E. Anthony & Sons, printers, 1872, 141 pp. | | | |
| 446(1) (2) | Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, <u>Discipline</u> , reprint of 1872 edition, New Bedford, E. Anthony & Sons, printers, 1878, 143 pp. | | | |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

- 447(1) Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Discipline,¹ reprint of
(2) 1872 edition, Lynn, press of Thos. P. Nichols, 1889, 145 pp.
- 448 Five Years Meeting, Constitution and Discipline for the American Yearly Meetings of Friends, Philadelphia, American Friend Publishing Co., 1901, 73 pp. (Adopted by the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, 1901.)
- 449 Five Years Meeting, Constitution and Discipline for the American Yearly Meetings of Friends, Philadelphia, Ferris & Leach, 1913, 103 pp.
- 451 Yearly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia & c., Rules of Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the Eastern Parts of Maryland: revised and adopted by the Said Meeting held in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, printed by Joseph Rakestraw, 1834, 191 pp.
- 452 Virginia Yearly Meeting, Rules of Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of Friends, held in Virginia, Richmond, printed by Thomas W. White, 1826, 72 pp.
- New York Yearly Meeting, Discipline, New York, printed by Isaac Collins, 1800, 141 pp.
- New York Yearly Meeting, Discipline, New York, printed by Collins & Perkins, 1810, 107 pp.
- 453 New York Yearly Meeting, Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in New York, for the State of New York and parts adjacent, as revised and adopted, in the sixth month, 1810, New York, Mahlon Day, printer, 1836, 103 pp.
- 454 New York Yearly Meeting, Discipline, revised and adopted by the
& meeting held in New York in 1859, New York, Samuel S. and
unnumbered William Wood, 1859, 133 pp.
volume
- London Yearly Meeting, Extracts from the Minutes and Advices of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in London from its first institution, London, printed by James Phillips, 1783, 275 pp.
- 458 London Yearly Meeting, Extracts from the Minutes and Advices of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in London, from its first institution, second edition, London, printed & sold by W. Phillips, 1802, 232 pp.
- 459 London Yearly Meeting, Extracts from the Minutes and Epistles of
& the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held in
470 London from its first institution to the present time, fourth edition, London, Friends Book Depository, 86 Houndsditch, 1861, 242 pp.

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

London Yearly Meeting, Extracts from the Minutes and Epistles of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held in London from its first institution to the present time, Philadelphia, Henry Longstreth, 1862, 260 pp.

460 London Yearly Meeting, Rules of Discipline of the Religious Society of Friends, with Advices, third edition, London, Darton & Harvey, 1834, 335 pp.

465 London Yearly Meeting, Supplement to the "Rules of Discipline" etc. London, Edward Marsh, 1849, 79 pp. (numbered 341-419).

2 copies; Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Memorials of Deceased unnumbered Friends of New England Yearly Meeting, Providence, published by Meeting for Sufferings, 1841, 96 pp., bound with The Testimony of the Society of Friends on the Continent of America, Philadelphia, no publisher given, 1830, 36 pp.

2 copies; The Society of Friends, The Testimony of the Society of Friends on unnumbered the Continent of America, Philadelphia, publisher not given, 1830, 36 pp., bound with Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Memorials of Deceased Friends of New England Yearly Meeting, Providence, published by Meeting for Sufferings, 1841, 96 pp.

2. MOSES BROWN SCHOOL, 1819-- , Lloyd Ave., Providence.

Soon after Moses Brown became a member of the Society of Friends in 1774, he wrote David Barclay in England: "I was so sorrowfully affected to find our discipline in regard to promoting of Schools so neglected that there was not one to be found under the regulation of friends . . ." In 1777 it was decided to use the whole of the income from a fund left by Rachel Thayer for education, and Job Scott was engaged to teach a school at the Lower Meeting House in Smithfield (now Saylesville), entry 16. This school, an example of a Monthly Meeting School of the period, enlarged the vision of Moses Brown and other members of that school committee toward the founding of a school by the Yearly Meeting, entry 1.

The matter was carried up through the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting, entry 1, by 1780, and the principal obstacle was said to be the "limited supply of Friends who were capable of teaching." By 1783 sufficient funds were reported to warrant an early opening of the school. Providence, Portsmouth, Greenwich, Smithfield, and Lynn, Mass., were considered as locations; Portsmouth was selected because "30 scholars could be boarded at private homes within a mile of the meeting house"; also a room was offered in the meeting house and a "solid Friend" was ready to act as master for 75£ (about \$250). The school was opened there, Nov. 8, 1784. In October, 1788, things were not going well and a vacation of "a year or longer" was begun. The school remained closed for thirty years, probably the longest school vacation on record.

There was a continuing interest in a Yearly Meeting School and funds gradually accumulated as time went on. In 1802 it was decided that \$16,000

was the sum required for reopening the school, and in 1810 Moses Brown, as treasurer, reported the school fund nearly one-half that amount. In 1814 Moses Brown wrote to the Meeting for Sufferings (predecessor of the present Permanent Board) and offered "A tract of land on the West part of my homestead farm (in Providence), containing about Forty-three Acres for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings for the boarding School thereon, etc. etc."; as treasurer of the school fund he also reported \$9,300 on hand at that time. The Yearly Meeting approved the acceptance of the land, and by 1817 the outside of the school building was nearly completed. An appeal for \$7,000 to finish the structure was issued. William Almy and Obadiah Brown offered to give half the sum if the remainder of the money was raised in six months, which was done.

The school opened on the first Monday (Jan. 4th) 1819, with five teachers and forty-one students registered, and in two months the enrollment had doubled. Deborah Hill was head teacher of the girls, Thomas Howland and Benjamin Rodman taught the boys. In 1822, Obadiah Brown, Moses' son, who had already given \$4,250 toward the school and \$1,000 a year for five years as a supporting fund, died and left a library of books and maps and \$100,000 to the school.

The enrollment in the school reached 179 in 1833, but from 1838 to 1843 it averaged only 80. In 1844 it was only 55 due to three causes: famous teachers left the school, the Wilburite controversy, and increased public schools in North Carolina, the home of many Friends. Moses Brown died in 1836, leaving the school a collection of books, two acres of land and \$15,000. Two years later a two term system of twenty-four weeks each was adopted. In 1847 the office of superintendent gave way to that of principal.

Improvements and repairs caused financial difficulties and a five month vacation was given in 1855. The school was reopened in November of that year on a contract basis, Joseph and Gertrude Cartland becoming principals. They were to receive the money paid in by the students, \$3,000 from the endowment income, and the use of the buildings and farm. In five years the debt was reduced from \$8,000 to \$3,000. In 1857, Mary S. Harris became the first official graduate and received a diploma; before this time the course of study had not been organized. From 1860 to 1879, Albert K. Smiley was principal and Alfred H. Smiley associate principal. Rebecca Smiley was head teacher of girls, 1863-79. The average attendance for this period was 103 boys and 69 girls.

Alumni Hall, begun in 1863, was finished in 1868. It housed the girls and contained an auditorium. The practice of holding school in the summer was abandoned at this time. Smiley established in 1864 a custom of having the boys and girls seated opposite each other in the dining rooms. It is said¹ "so great was the embarrassment of many scholars in the unwonted presence of the opposite sex that the consumption of bread fell off 75 loaves the first week."

1. Kelsey, Centennial History of Moses Brown School, p. 103.

Society of Friends - Orthodox

From 1879 to 1904 Augustine and Caroline Jones were heads of the school. During this time music and art were added to the curriculum, and the studio of Three Oaks was built. The Hawes Gymnasium was added in 1902, costing \$30,000. During the period 1873-93 the school was taxed. In 1893, when the tax was removed, the social life of the students was developed. In 1904, Seth and Mary Gifford took charge. The curriculum was revised to prepare students for college. A \$20,000 country day school was added which was a success from the start, and the name of the school, which had been called Friends School, Friends Boarding School of New England, Yearly Meeting Board School, and even Quaker College, was changed to Moses Brown School in honor of the man who gave so much time and money to insure the very existence of the school.

In 1925 L. Ralston Thomas became Headmaster, and the next year the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England assumed control of Lincoln School, entry 4, and made Moses Brown exclusively a boys' school. The school consists today of an excellent group of buildings and equipment, set in pleasant surroundings of about fifty acres, in the East Side residential section of Providence. Additions were made in 1826, 1830, 1849, 1853-60, 1863 (Alumni Hall), 1872, 1892, 1902 (Hawes Gymnasium), 1904 (Country Day School), and there was a general overhauling in 1904. First head teachers, Deborah Hill for the girls, and Thomas Howland and Benjamin Rodman for the boys. See: Rayner W. Kelsey, Centennial History of Moses Brown School, Providence, Moses Brown School, 1919, 178 pp.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 890 parcel XVI | Minutes and Extracts about Yearly Meeting School, Ports- mouth, R. I. | 1 vol. | 1784, 11th mo. 1788, 10th mo. | Deals with Portsmouth School, forerunner of Moses Brown School. |

Other references to the school will be found in the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting.

| | | | |
|--|-----------|---|-----------------|
| Student Regis- ter of Friends School, Scholas- tic Record | 6 vols. | Autumn term 1872 - spring term 1904 | |
| Scholastic Record | Card file | Autumn term 1904-- | (School office) |
| Bank Book Ac- count in Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co. | 1 vol. | 1927, 6th mo. 1933, 12th mo. | |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are in vault at Moses Brown School.

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|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | Pay Roll Ledger | 1 vol. | 1910-15 | |
| | Standard Trial Balance | 2 vols. | 1901, 12th mo. 1907, 8th mo. | With Recapitulation Pages |
| | Standard Trial Balance | 2 vols. | 1913, 9th mo. 1919, 8th mo. | |
| | Standard Trial Balance | 3 vols. | 1915, 9th mo. 1925, 10th mo. | |
| | Standard Trial Balance | 1 vol. | 1918, 9th mo. 1921, 4th mo. | |
| | Standard Trial Balance | 2 vols. | 1921, 9th mo. 1925, 10th mo. | |
| | Standard Trial Balance | 1 vol. | 1925, 9th mo. 1926, 12th mo. | |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1847-49 | (Attic) |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1852-54 | (Attic) |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1860-62 | |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1863-64 | (Attic) |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1866-68 | (Attic) |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1869-70 | |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1872-74 | |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1874-77 | (Attic) |
| | Cash Ledger | 3 vols. | 1879-84 | |
| | Cash Ledger | 7 vols. | 1884-95 | (Attic) |
| | Cash Ledger | 2 vols. | 1896, 1st mo. 1904, 7th mo. | (Book Room) |
| | Cash Ledger | 2 vols. | 1915, 7th mo. 1926, 9th mo. | |
| | Cash Ledger | Vols. not given | 1926-- | (Treasurer, school office) |

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|------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | Financial Statements | 1 vol. | 1926, 9th mo. 1931, 6th mo. | Wrapped in brown paper |
| | Treasurer's Journal | 1 vol. | 1895, 9th mo. 1904, 7th mo. | |
| | Indexed Journal of Accounts | 1 vol. | 1883-84 | |
| | Petty Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1883-95 | (Attic) |
| | Record of Wages (Male and Female) | 1 vol. | 1894, 7th mo. 1901, 6th mo. | (Book Room) |
| | Purchase Journal | 2 vols. | 1904, 7th mo. 1915, 6th mo. | |
| | Journal - Students Ledgers | 2 vols. | 1915, 9th mo. 1925, 6th mo. | |
| | Requisition Record | 1 vol. | 1904, 9th mo. 1926, 6th mo. | |
| | Expense Record | 1 vol. | 1915, 7th mo. 1923, 11th mo. | |
| | Treasurers Account Ledger | 1 vol. | 1923, 12th mo. 1926, 6th mo. | |
| | Journal A, Treasurer | 1 vol. | 1904, 7th mo. 1912, 6th mo. | |
| | Journal, Recording Moses Brown School Trust Funds - Board of Managers of Investments and Permanent Funds, of the Yearly Meeting for New England | 1 vol. | 1917, 1st mo. 1922, 3rd mo. | |
| | Scholarship Fund Record | 1 vol. | 1888-93 | (Book Room) |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are in vault at Moses Brown School.

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|------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| | Other financial records | | | In Minute Books of Yearly Meeting, entry 1. |
| | Record of Y.M. C.A. of Friends' School | 2 vols. | 1886-91 and 1903-24 | (Vol., 1903-24, in Book Room) |
| | Reading Room Shelf List | 1 vol. | | |
| | Catalog of Library Books | 2 vols. | | |
| | Principals' Reports to School Committee | 1 vol. | 1904-24 | |
| | Copy of Panorama, School paper | | 1882 | (Tin Box #1) |
| | Deeds of School Farm, also some School Correspondence | | | (Tin Box #2) |
| | Catalogue of Officers and Students of Friends Boarding School | 7 pamphlets | 1819-1835 | Each pamphlet contains various dates, with names listed alph. by year. |

The following entries are printed items in custody of Moses Brown School.

Catalogue of Officers and Students at the Moses Brown School, Providence, Friends Boarding School, 1832-1904 (one catalogue for each year), 3 vols.

Moses Brown School Catalogues, Providence, Moses Brown School, 1904-1932 (one catalogue for each year), 2 vols.

Moses Brown School Catalogues, Providence, Moses Brown School, 1933-- (one catalogue for each year), 7 pamphlets.

3. OAK GROVE SCHOOL, 1849-- , Vassalboro, Maine.

Oak Grove was founded by John D. Lang, Alton Pope, Alden Sampson, Ebenezer Frye, and Samuel Taylor, all members of the Society of Friends. Patrons were attracted from a distance, a dormitory was built, and in 1857 Oak Grove became a private school. From the beginning until 1925 the school was co-educational.

1. Unless otherwise noted records are in vault at Moses Brown School.

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In 1925 Oak Grove opened as a school exclusively for girls. There are three departments: college preparation, postgraduate work, and secretarial work. A Lower School takes girls from about 11 years old, who have completed six grades. Outdoor sports are featured including riding, skating, and skiing. Special attention is given to music.

Physical equipment includes the original building, a new wing, Briggs Hall, a gymnasium, and stables. The original building contains offices, assembly hall, library, six classrooms, dining room, and living room and two floors above of dormitory rooms. The new wing contains modern recitation rooms, a reference library, rest rooms and laboratories. On the top floor is a room for Arts and Crafts adjoining a studio with a fireplace.

Briggs Hall, built in 1930, has accommodations for nine teachers and about sixty students. Besides dormitory rooms it contains the clinic, infirmary, sun parlor, nurse's room, library, drawing room, music room, French room and office. A social room, forty by fifty feet, with a fireplace is the scene of informal parties.

Note: While the above story of the Oak Grove School is included to show the educational activities of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, records of the school, being outside the State of Rhode Island, are not given. For records see the forthcoming Maine Inventory of Church Archives.

4. LINCOLN SCHOOL, 1925--, 301 Butler Ave., Providence.

This school, which had been a private girls' school, was acquired by the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England (Orthodox) in 1925, entry 1. The girls' department, formerly housed at Moses Brown School, entry 2, was moved to Lincoln School. The Gymnasium, built in 1927, was a gift of the Yearly Meeting of Friends. A building connecting Junior House with the Upper School, which provided additional classrooms, was constructed 1928-29. It houses the Kindergarten and Junior High departments. In February 1929, a piece of property bounded by East Orchard Ave., Paterson St., and Oriole Ave. was purchased, and was later named the Mary Nichol's Field. The old building on this property, formerly a Chapel of the Central Congregational Church, was renovated and converted into a Nursery School during the summer of 1934.

The original Lincoln School grew from a private class for girls, started by Mrs. William Ames in 1884, and taught by Miss Harriet L. Bucklin. It was taken over in 1889 by Miss Ednah G. Bowen and Miss Margaret Gilman, as equal partners, and named by them The Lincoln School in remembrance of Professor John D. Lincoln, in whose school for girls Miss Bowen had been a pupil. The school met in a small structure on the corner of Brook and Waterman Streets in 1889 when Miss Bowen and Miss Gilman took the school. In 1893, it was moved to a house at 147 Angell St., where it remained for several years, and then moved once more to the remodelled brick building at 223 Thayer St. Miss Bowen retired from the partnership while the school was in this building and Miss Gilman remained sole principal until 1911, when she also retired and Miss Frances Lucas became principal. In the fall of 1911 a small boarding department was opened at 207 Governor St. Miss Lucas incorporated the school (the idea was originated by Miss Gilman), and raised money for a new building,

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large enough for both the Day and Boarding Departments. The cornerstone of the present main building was laid in June, 1913. Miss Miriam Sewall Converse was principal from 1920 to 1926. Junior House was built in 1923.

First principal, after acquisition by the Friends, Miss Frances E. Wheeler, June 1925 - June 1938, graduate of Moses Brown School and Smith College. Miss Amy L. Phillips became principal in July, 1938. See: Marion S. Cole, "Lincoln School," Providence Magazine, Providence, Providence Chamber of Commerce, June, 1915. Lincoln School Catalog (1926-7--). "They Didn't Know That They Were Starting a School," Providence Sunday Journal, June 2, 1934.

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|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Minutes of the Board of Trustees | | | Contained in report of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, entry 1. |
| | Card catalogue of students | | 1925-- | |
| | Income Cash Book | 4 vols. | 1925-- | |
| | Disbursement Cash Book | 5 vols. | 1925-- | |
| | Cash Ledger | 1 vol. | 1926-- | |

Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting in the Society of Friends is attended by delegates or representatives appointed by its Monthly Meetings to insure attendance, by members of the Yearly and subordinate meetings, and possibly by a few who are not Friends.

Reports of business presented by Monthly Meetings, with such new business as may originate, is considered. Matters thought to be too weighty for immediate decision are deferred until another meeting, or referred to the next Yearly Meeting.

5. RHODE ISLAND QUARTERLY MEETING, 1699--

Note: The component Meetings for Worship which constitute its Monthly Meetings furnish the place for the Quarterly Meeting.

1. All records in school office, 301 Butler Ave., Providence.

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This meeting, and the Quarterly Meetings of Salem [Mass.] and Sandwich [Mass.], constituted the only Quarterly Meetings in New England before 1784. It was established by the Yearly Meeting, entry 1, in 1699, and comprised the Monthly Meetings of Rhode Island, entry 7, Dartmouth [Mass.],¹ and Narragansett, entry 8 (called Kingston in early records, now known as Greenwich); with this action the period of general organization in Rhode Island was completed.² In 1784, it was made up of Smithfield, entry 9, Greenwich, entry 8, Swansea [Mass.], and Dartmouth [Mass.] Monthly Meetings. Westport [Mass.] Monthly Meeting, set off from Dartmouth [Mass.] Monthly Meeting as Acoaxet, 1766, was a member of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting until 1788 when it was transferred to Sandwich [Mass.] Quarterly Meeting. Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, entry 6, was set off from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in 1801. In 1836 it was made up of Rhode Island, entry 7, Greenwich, entry 8, South Kingstown, entry 10, Providence, entry 11, and Swansea [Mass.] Monthly Meetings, which were composed of twenty-two Meetings for Worship, fifteen of which were Preparative Meetings. Composed, since 1902, of Providence, entry 11, Greenwich, entry 8, Rhode Island, entry 7, and Swansea [Mass.] Monthly Meetings.

See: David Benedict, A History of All Religions, Providence, John Miller, printer, 1824, 360 pp. Author unknown, A Brief Account of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Providence, Marshall & Brown, 1836, 36 pp. William I. Hull, "The Religious Society of Friends," in Early Religious Leaders of Newport (eight addresses delivered before the Society in 1917), Newport, the Society, 1918, 184 pp. Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Providence, Knowles & Vose, and others, printers, 1847-- , 75 pp. (average).

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks³</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| 5-6 | Men's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1681-1791 | Vol. 5 is partly marginal indexed. |
| 10-11 | Men's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1836-1905 | Vol. 11 contains Men's Minutes to 1893 and Joint Sessions 1893-1905. Indexed. |
| 12 and unnumbered vol. | Joint Sessions | 2 vols. | 1905-- | Vol. 12 part margin indexed, (Vol. 1911-- , Harold W. Myers, 7 Charles St., Meshanticut, Cranston). |

1. For Friends Meetings in Massachusetts, see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives.

2. Nantucket [Mass.] Monthly Meeting, set off from Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, 1708, 28th of 4th mo., belonged to Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, 1708-1781, when it joined Sandwich [Mass.] Quarterly Meeting.

3. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

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|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Women's Minutes | | 1706-83 | In Vol. 201 of Yearly Meeting Records (Women), entry 1. |
| 20-21 | Women's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1783-1873 | No index. |
| 12 | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1874-93 | Joint Sessions began 1893; see Vol. 11 of Men's Minutes. |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Financial records | | | In Minute Books. |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| 1-4 | Ministers and Elders | 4 vols. | 1701-1874 | No index. |
| 30 | Ministry and Oversight | 1 vol. | 1874-1911 | No index. |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Sufferings | | 1688-1700 | In back of Men's Minutes, Vol. 5, reversed. |
| <hr/> | | | | |

In the early meetings of the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, entry 7, every third meeting seems to have been considered a Quarterly Meeting (see Rhode Island Monthly Meeting records at Newport Historical Society), which may account for the fact that the Men's Minutes, Vol. 5, begins in 1681, while the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting was not established until 1699. The records in Vol. 5, 1681-99, are written in a different handwriting.

6. SMITHFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING, 1801--

Note: The component Meetings for Worship which constitute its Monthly Meetings alternately furnish the place for the Quarterly Meeting.

This Quarterly Meeting was set off from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, in 1801, 7th of 9th mo. Its purpose was to provide a more convenient meeting for northern Rhode Island and the Blackstone Valley section of Massachusetts. It included the Monthly Meetings of Smithfield, entry 9, Uxbridge [Mass.], Bolton [Mass.], and Richmond [New Hampshire]. At present it is composed of Smithfield, entry 9, Worcester [Mass.], and Bolton [Mass.] Monthly Meetings.

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|------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| 10 | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1801-47 | |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

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|------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|---|
| | Joint Sessions | 1 vol. | 1913-- | (Susan L. Dow, Bolton, Mass.) Joint Sessions probably began in 1894. |
| 20-22 | Women's Minutes | 3 vols. | 1801-94 | |
| 40 | Treasurer's Account | 1 vol. | 1801-1915 | |
| 41 | Treasurer's Account | 1 vol. | 1915-- | (Forrest E. Wheeler, 29 Elm St., Worcester, Mass.) 1910, 10th of 11th mo. to 1915, 20th of 1st mo. copied from Vol. 40. |
| | Other financial records | | | In Minute Books. |
| 30-31(?) | Ministry and Oversight | 2 vols. | 1801-- | (Vol. 1848-- , Mrs. Harry Harrison, South Road, Holden, Mass.) |
| 220 | Records of Conferences of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting Bible Schools | 1 vol. | 1882-95 | |

Monthly Meeting

While the meeting is open to all Friends, members of component meetings conduct the business of the meeting. The Monthly Meeting transacts business for, and gives advice to subordinate meetings. It also transacts its own business; it submits reports and forwards business to its Quarterly Meeting.

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

7. RHODE ISLAND MONTHLY MEETING, 1658--

Note: The component Meetings for Worship alternately furnish the place for the Monthly Meeting.

This Monthly Meeting has included the Jamestown, entry 14, Tiverton, entry 30, Newport, entry 12, and Portsmouth, entry 13, Meetings for Worship. It met at homes of various members until 1692, 14th of 12th mo., when it was transferred to the Portsmouth and Newport meeting houses. It is stated that records before 1676 were destroyed that year, when a dwelling where they were housed burned. See: A Brief Account of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Providence, Marshall & Brown, 1836, 36 pp. William I. Hull, "The Early History of the Friends in Newport," Early Religious Leaders of Newport, Newport, Newport Historical Society, 1918, 184 pp.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| 1-7 | Men's Minutes | 7 vols. | 1676-1875 | Vol. 1 contains an occasional Men's and Women's Meeting to 1694, 1st mo., and some Quarterly Meetings entered by clerk of Monthly Meeting. Newport Historical Society parcels 807-12 and 827. Vol. 4 is indexed. |
| 8 | Men's and Women's Meetings | 1 vol. | 1875-- | (Archie E. Luther, 37 Friendship St., Newport) Joint Sessions after 1884. No index. |
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1676-83 | Partial copy of first volume of Men's Minutes. No index. Newport Historical Society parcel 830. |
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1676-1707 | Copy of first volume of Men's Minutes. No index. Newport Historical Society parcel 807A. |
| 25 | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1690-94 and 1714-59 | No index. Newport Historical Society parcel 813. |

1. All records are in the vault at Newport Historical Society, Newport, with the exception of Vol. 8, Men's and Women's Meetings, which is in the hands of the clerk of the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting.

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|------------------|--|-----------------|---|--|
| 27-31 | Women's Minutes | 5 vols. | 1759-1884 | Joint Sessions began after 1884; see Vol. 8. No index. Newport Historical Society parcels 814-18. |
| 40 | Births and Deaths | 1 vol. | Births 1638- 1812. Deaths 1647-1799 | Early entries of births and deaths have been copied into this book. Indexed. |
| 41 | Births | 1 vol. | 1812-61 | No index. |
| | Deaths | 1 vol. | 1803-75 | Indexed. |
| 50-51 | Marriages | 2 vols. | 1643-1888 | All prior to 1672 collected in 1672. Indexed. |
| | Financial records | | | In Minute Books. |
| 60 | Proprietor's Records | 1 vol. | 1773-1899 | No index. ² Original minutes begin on p. 15. Entries on earlier pages include copies of wills of William Edwards, 1696, and Anne Bull, 1706, and transcriptions of land transfers dated 1728, 1749, and 1773. |
| | Record Book of Certificates [of Removal] to and from Rhode Island Monthly Meeting of Women Friends | 1 vol. | 1786-1880 | Newport Historical Society 13 - Vol. I. |
| | Epistles and Removal Certificates | 1 vol. | 1787-1899 | Newport Historical Society 14 - Vol. II. Epistles to Rhode Island Monthly Meeting; removals to and from Rhode Island Monthly Meeting. |

1. All records are in the vault at Newport Historical Society, Newport.

2. This seems to be the record of a committee appointed by Friends to transact business in real estate, chiefly at Easton's Point.

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|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| | Testimonies and Manumissions | 1 vol. | Testimonies 1718-1927 Manumissions 1773-99 | Newport Historical So- ciety 15 - Vol. I. |

Note: The following entry is a printed item in custody of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting.

23 Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Discipline, Providence, printed by John Carter, 1785, 155 pp.

8. GREENWICH MONTHLY MEETING, 1699--

Note: The component Meetings for Worship alternately furnish the place for the Monthly Meeting.

This Monthly Meeting was established in 1699 under the name of Narragansett Monthly Meeting and was then held at the home of John Briggs in Kingston, hence it was referred to as the Kingston Monthly Meeting. After three months it was removed to the home of a Friend in Warwick, after which it was removed to the meeting house in East Greenwich, entry 15. It was held here constantly for seven years until in 1707, it was also held at Providence, entry 16 (now the Saylesville house) and Kingstown, entry 19 (Tower Hill) three months each during the year.

In 1705, 22nd of 8th mo., particular meetings were called upon to send two representatives from each meeting; the several meetings called upon were Greenwich, entry 15, Kingstown (Tower Hill), entry 19, Providence (Saylesville), entry 16, and Warwick, entry 17. Subsequently it was held at Providence, entry 16, East Greenwich, entry 15, and Kingstown, entry 19, until 1718, when Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 9, was set off from it by the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, and Providence Meeting for Worship, entry 16, came under the new Monthly Meeting.

In 1743 Greenwich Monthly Meeting was again divided, and the new one thus formed was called South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, entry 10. This Monthly Meeting uses the house at 123 Peirce St., East Greenwich. See: Daniel Howland Greene, History of East Greenwich, R. I., Providence, J. A. & R. A. Reid, 1877, 263 pp. Caroline Hazard, Narragansett Friends' Meeting in the XVIII Century, Boston & New York, Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1899, 197 pp.

1. All records are in the vault at Newport Historical Society, Newport.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| 1-6 | Men's Minutes | 6 vols. | 1699-- | Joint Sessions begin 1893. (Vol. 6, 1898--, Mrs. E. Annah Tucker, 110 Somerset St., Providence). |
| 01 | Note Book | 1 vol. | 1699-1708 | Clerk's Note Book from which the minutes were entered in Men's Minutes Book 1. |
| | Copy of Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1699-1718 | Ends when Providence Monthly Meeting was set off from Greenwich Monthly Meeting, 1718, 10th of 4th mo., and is evidently in Samuel Austin's handwriting (Parcel 807). |
| 20 | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1855-95 | Joint Sessions begin 1893, 30th of 10th mo., and continue after that in Men's Minutes, Vol. 5. The 11th and 12th mos., 1887, do not appear in the Women's Minutes; the pp. for this period are blank. |
| 25 | Births, Deaths and Marriages | 1 vol. | Approx. 1704-1884 | |
| 26 | Births & Deaths | 1 vol. | 1690 - approx. 1900 | |
| | Marriages, Members and Deaths | | 1898-- | In Minutes, Vol. 6. |
| | Financial Records | | 1699-1926 | In Minute Books 1-6. |
| | Financial Records | 1 vol. | 1926-- | (Mrs. Adeline F. Clarke, 15 William St., East Greenwich). |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

9. SMITHFIELD MONTHLY MEETING, 1718--

Note: The component Meetings for Worship alternately furnish the place for the Monthly Meeting.

Meeting set off from Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, in 1718, under the name of Providence Monthly Meeting; in 1731 the name was changed to Smithfield Monthly Meeting, when the town of Smithfield was taken from Providence. Belonged to Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, until the Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, entry 6, was set off from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in 1801. In the beginning it comprised the Smithfield (Upper, entry 21, and Lower, entry 16) and Mendon [Mass.] Meetings for Worship. See forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives.

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|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| 4-9 | Men's Minutes | 6 vols. | 1718-1903 | Joint Sessions after 1892. |
| 7-8 | Joint Sessions | 2 vols. | 1903-- | (Friends Meeting House, Woonsocket, Miss Melita Fisher, Warren Ave., Union Village, North Smithfield). |
| 16 | Women's Minutes | 40 Stitched Sheets | 1718-43 | |
| 18 | Women's Minutes | 50 Stitched Sheets | 1765-74 | |
| 19-21 | Women's Minutes | 3 vols. | 1775-1892 | Minutes after 1892, in Joint Sessions, Vols. 7-8. |
| 25 | Treasurer's Account | 1 vol. | 1776-1910 | Cash book. |
| | Other financial records..... | | | In Minute Books. |
| 30 | Marriage Certificates and Ceremony | 1 vol. | 1725-1905 | A fair copy. |
| 40 | Denials and Removals | 1 vol. | 1783-1872 | Indexed. |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--|--|
| 31 | Denials, Intentions of Marriage, and Removals to and from Smithfield M. M. | 1 vol. | 1886-90 | Indexed. |
| 33 | Ministers and Elders | 1 vol. | 1783-1858 | |
| 35 | Memberships, Births, Deaths, and Burials | 1 vol. | Memberships 1765. Births, Deaths, Burials, 1765-1857 | Separate paper index. |

10. SOUTH KINGSTOWN MONTHLY MEETING, 1743-1899.

Note: The component Meetings for Worship alternately furnish the place for the Monthly Meeting.

Set off from Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, in 1743, 2nd of 3rd mo. In 1842, 22nd of 11th mo., it was "discontinued and dissolved" according to the minutes. The component meetings of South Kingstown (Tower Hill), entry 19, Western, entry 28, and Hopkinton, entry 25, were not dissolved, but were to report directly to the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8. In 1847, 2nd day before last 5th day, in 7th mo., the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting was re-established at Tower Hill. The Wilbur Controversy was responsible for the dissolution and re-establishment of this Monthly Meeting. See: Caroline Hazard, The Narragansett Friends Meeting in the 18th Century, Boston & New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1899, 197 pp.

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|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| 1-5 | Men's Minutes | 5 vols. | 1743-1864 | |
| 20-22 | Women's Minutes | 3 vols. | 1743-1888 | Vol. 21 is indexed. Joint Sessions begin 1882 in Women's Minutes. Although the minutes cease in 1888, the meeting was not laid down until 1899. |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| 25 | Births, Deaths and Marriages | 1 vol. | 1715-1820 | Indexed. Page 171 contains a story of Hezekiah Collins life. |
| 26 | Births, Deaths and Marriages | 1 vol. | Approx. 1803-92 | Indexed. |
| | Financial Records | | 1743-1888 | In Minute Books. |
| 30 | Written Discipline | 1 vol. | Late 1600's - 1800 | Indexed. |

The following parcels of records are in the large safe near the vault,
in basement at Moses Brown School.²

| | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------|-----------|--|
| A | Original Deeds to Property of Friends Monthly Meetings | 1 bundle | | |
| B | Schools, and Letters from Moses Brown | 1 bundle | | |
| C | Meetings for Sufferings | 1 bundle | | |
| E | Quarterly Meet- ing Epistles | 1 bundle | 1747-87 | |
| E ³ | Quarterly Meet- ing Epistles to South Kingstown Monthly Meeting | 1 bundle | 1747-1800 | |
| F | Accounts of Friends Sufferings and Manumission Papers | 1 bundle | | |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

2. "The Documents stored in this 'Strong Box' are a parcel of old records from South Kingstown Monthly Meeting arranged by Caroline Hazard and are catalogued as Miscellaneous Papers in the List of Records of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting." - (From a paper filed with records in the inner safe).

3. Two bundles marked E.

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| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| G | Goodbodies Will. Peter Davis' Life Lease | 1 bundle | | |
| H | London Epistles before 1800 | 1 bundle | | |
| I | London Yearly Epistles before 1800 | 1 bundle | | |
| J | Minutes, Denials, Certificates mostly recorded after 1800 | 1 bundle | | |
| L | Miscellaneous Pamphlets | 1 bundle | | |
| N | Letters and Notes to South Kingstown Monthly Meeting after 1800 | 1 bundle | | |
| | Yearly Meeting Epistles - Flushing, Burlington, Philadelphia | 1 bundle | 1750 etc. - 1800 | Some years lacking. |
| | Yearly Meeting Epistles after 1800 | 1 bundle | | |
| | Letters Concern- ing Discipline to the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting | 1 bundle | | |

11. PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING, 1783--

Note: The component Meetings for Worship alternately furnish the place for the Monthly Meeting.

1. These parcels of records are in the large safe near the vault at Moses Brown School.

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In 1718 a Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 9, composed of Providence (Saylesville), entry 16, and Mendon [Mass.], see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives, Meetings for Worship, was set off from Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8. In 1731 this minute appears: "Whereas by dividing the township of Providence into several towns (Scituate, Gloucester, and Smithfield) that Monthly Meeting fell within the town called Smithfield. Said meeting therefor for the future to be called by Name of Smithfield Monthly Meeting" (Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting minutes, Vol. 5, p. 178). Although the name was changed, the composition of the meeting remained the same until 1783, when the Providence Monthly Meeting was set off from Smithfield, entry 9. This meeting was composed of Providence, entry 22, Scituate, entry 23, Saylesville, entry 16, and Cumberland, entry 29, Meetings for Worship. This was the beginning of the Providence Monthly Meeting records. The meeting from 1718 to 1731 called Providence Monthly Meeting should be regarded as the early part of the Smithfield Monthly Meeting, entry 9. The records for that period are included in the Smithfield Monthly Meeting records in the vault at Moses Brown School, entry 9.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|---|-----------------|--------------|--|
| 100 | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1783-1800 | |
| 106-7 | Men's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1841-1904 | Alphabetically indexed. Joint Sessions begin in 1893, in Vol. 107. |
| 108-10 | Joint Sessions | 3 vols. | 1904-- | Women's Minutes, 1891-94, are in front of Vol. 108. (Vol. 110, 1931--, Willis H. White, 49 Westminster St., Providence). |
| 120-22 | Women's Minutes | 3 vols. | 1783-1891 | |
| 150 | Births, Deaths, and Burials | 1 vol. | 1783-1898? | Alphabetically indexed. Contains many valuable notes, obituary notices, and records of births and deaths. |
| | Financial Records | | 1783-- | In Minute Books. |
| 239-40 | Ministry and Oversight Pastoral Committee | 2 vols. | 1915-1925 | |

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

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| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|---|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | "Register of Disinterment of the Remains in Friends Old Burial Ground and of their re-interment in their New Burial Ground in Providence in 8 mo. 1857" | 1 vol. | 1857 | Compiled by William Jenkins Harris. |

For records of the old Providence Monthly Meeting (1718-1731) see Smithfield Monthly Meeting records, entry 9.

Meeting for Worship

Friends meet for worship on first day (Sunday), and sometimes again in the middle of the week. The first day meeting corresponds in a way to the Sunday congregation of other denominations. Some Meetings for Worship were also Preparative Meetings, conducting the business of one or more Meetings for Worship. The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England (Orthodox) abolished Preparative Meetings when the Discipline of the Five Years Meeting became effective in 1901.

12. NEWPORT MEETING FOR WORSHIP, about 1657-58-- , 23 Farewell St., Newport.

First meetings were held in a large room of William Coddington's house on Marlborough St., off Duke St. First meeting house was erected on east side of Farewell St., near corner of Marlborough (opposite Coddington's burying place) in 1672; it was taken down in 1705, and some of the lumber was used in the second structure. Second house, built 1699-1700, was 45 feet by 46 feet with two rows of galleries, one above the other, called "Old Ship Room," because of its construction. The roof is hipped, with concave rafters, and there is a tower 10 feet square and 10 feet high, with a square wooden shaft which extends up 6 feet from the peak. A women's section was added to this building in 1808, and an addition made to the other end in 1857. This building became a museum in 1926. The present building is a rectangular wooden meeting house, built in 1922.

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are at Moses Brown School.

Half of the population of Newport were Friends about 1700, and they were influential in the government of the colony. At present, although there are no regular meetings, the Society is still considered active.

See: James C. Swan, "Historical Notes - 1699," Newport Mercury, Dec. 5, 1896. William I. Hull, "The Early History of the Friends in Newport," in Early Religious Leaders of Newport, Newport, Newport Historical Society, 1918, 184 pp. Miss Maud Lyman Stevens, "The Romance of Newport," Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society (24), Newport, the Society, January 1918, p. 13. Rufus M. Jones, The Quakers in the American Colonies, London, Macmillan & Co. Ltd., 1923, 603 pp. George Webb (editor), The Book of Newport, Rhode Island, Newport, Newport Service Society, 1930, 107 pp.

All business was transacted through the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 7.

13. PORTSMOUTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1658-- , East Main Road, Portsmouth.

In 1692, 5th of 5th mo., a lot, with a stone house on it, located on the south side of Hedley St. not far from West Road, was purchased from Robert Hodgson, and repairs were made on the house in order to make it suitable for a meeting house. The first meeting was held here in 1693, 3rd of 1st mo. In 1699, 17th of 8th mo., a place was laid out for a new meeting house, and stones were brought for the foundation. In 1700, 2nd mo., the old house was sold and the proceeds went toward building the new meeting house, which was probably ready for use soon after. Robert Fish sold one-half acre of land to the people "sometimes called in scorn Quakers, the land on which stands the meeting house." Although the new house was probably built in 1700, and certainly used in 1702, 28th of 2nd mo., for a monthly meeting, the deed wasn't given by Fish until 1708. This meeting house is a good sized, two-story, shingled house with a two-door vestibule. There is a large shed for horses in back of the meeting house. An addition was made in 1705, "for convenience of the women's meeting." The building was moved back 30 feet and remodelled inside in 1890.

From available records and information this seems to be the oldest Friends' Meeting House in America.

See: Miss Elizabeth J. Trout, History of Friends in Portsmouth, 1935, ms. (Miss Elizabeth J. Trout, Portsmouth). Thomas Robinson Hazard, The Jonny Cake Papers of "Shepherd Tom", Boston, D. B. Updike, 1915, 426 pp. (pp. 41-43). Edward H. West, "The Lands of Portsmouth," Rhode Island Historical Society Collections, Providence, the Society, July 1932, 128 pp. (pp. 65-85).

All business was transacted through the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 7.

14. JAMESTOWN MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1684-- , North Main Road, Jamestown.

Services held, 1684 to 1709-10, at homes of various Friends. First meeting house, erected 1709-10, stood on North Ferry Road (now Eldred Ave.); house moved to site of present meeting house in 1734. Present house, erected 1786, is a one-story, plain, wooden building, 26 ft. long and 20 ft. wide. From 1684 to about 1840, the Friends were the only organized religious sect

in the town of Jamestown, nearly every resident being a member. At the present time, there are no Friends among the permanent residents, the meeting house being open only from June to September for the benefit of Quaker summer residents from Philadelphia. See: Miss Lena H. Clarke, the Friends Meeting House (a paper prepared for reading before the Jamestown Historical Society), manuscript (Miss Clarke, Narragansett Ave., Jamestown). Walter Leon Watson, The Early Quakers and The Old Quaker Meeting House, Jamestown, Jamestown Historical Society (Bulletin 5), 1930, 15 pp.

All business was transacted through the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 7.

15. EAST GREENWICH MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1699-- , 123 Peirce St., East Greenwich.

The first meeting house was built on John Spencer's land, one-half mile south-west of East Greenwich village, near four corners west of Payne's grist mill; occupied 1700, completed 1703. Meeting house and lot conveyed to society in 1704 and portion set off for burying ground; meeting house rebuilt in 1727. Present building built on Peirce St. in 1804; a good sized two-story wooden meeting house; porch added in 1818; repairs in 1835 and 1843; house moved forward on the lot (probably to present location) in 1848, 29th of 5th mo. Repaired again in 1865, and in 1891 the south part was repaired and refurbished; north part remains in a much plainer state; children's meetings were held upstairs; originally there seems to have been a gallery, but later a second floor was put in across the top of both sections. The old lot and burying ground are still used as the Friends' burying ground. It seems to have been the custom to hold winter meetings in private homes, even when there was a meeting house; on page 31 of Vol. II, Greenwich Monthly Meeting records, it states that winter meetings were held at Preserved Hall's in W. Greenwich, 1766, 8th of 12th mo. This was not a separate meeting, but simply one held by those Friends in the western part of Greenwich.

See: Daniel Howland Greene, History of the Town of East Greenwich, Providence, J. A. & R. A. Reid, 1877, 263 pp. (pp. 66-102). Hoag, Wade & Co., History of the State of Rhode Island, Philadelphia, Hoag, Wade & Co., 1878, 370 pp. (p. 123). J. R. Cole, History of Washington and Kent Counties, New York, W. W. Preston & Co., 1889, 1344 pp. Emily Gertrude Arnold, "Historical Sketch of East Greenwich," The Souvenir Program - 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Founding of the Town of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, East Greenwich, Anniversary Executive Committee, printed by Akerman Standard Co., Providence, 1927, 96 pp.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8.

16. SAYLESVILLE MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1700-- , Smithfield Ave., Saylesville, Lincoln.

Original building constructed in 1703-4 was a one-story wooden structure, 29 feet by 23 feet; a gallery extended around three sides of the interior. The two-story addition of 1745 is attached to, but larger than the original building; repairs were made in 1929. The original structure was the first of four Friends' meeting houses built in the Town of Providence,

as Providence existed before 1730. Originally under the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, this Meeting for Worship came under the Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 9, when that meeting was set off from the Greenwich Monthly Meeting in 1718. The name of the Providence Monthly Meeting was changed to Smithfield Monthly Meeting in 1731, although the make-up of the meeting remained the same. During this time, this Meeting for Worship was known as the Lower Smithfield meeting, as the Woonsocket meeting, entry 21, was called Upper Smithfield. In 1783, when the present Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 11, was set off from Smithfield Monthly Meeting, entry 9, the Lower Smithfield meeting was included in Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 11. In 1871, when the town of Lincoln was incorporated and set off from the town of Smithfield, this meeting fell within the bounds of the new town, and subsequently came to be called Saylesville Meeting when the village in which it is situated was named for the Sayles family.

All business prior to 1718 transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8. All business from 1718 to 1783 transacted through the Smithfield Monthly Meeting (known as Providence Monthly Meeting 1718-31); for its records see entry 9. All business from 1783 to the present transacted through the Providence Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 11.

17. WARWICK MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1705, or just before - 1842, Warwick.

Meetings held alternately at Warwick and East Greenwich in private homes until a two-story wooden meeting house was built about 1716, definitely before 1720. This house was so badly damaged by the gale of 1815, that it was torn down, and the lumber was used to build a smaller house in 1816. This meeting was suspended as early as 1726, 2nd of 11th mo. It was probably revived; however, by 1794 a committee from the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, was authorized to sell the meeting house, but the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, would not permit the sale, and suggested repairs. Apparently a first day meeting was held once a month for about twenty-five years. Records say, "Discontinued 28th of 2nd month 1842, after about 25 years." See: Oliver P. Fuller, History of Warwick, R. I., Providence, Angell, Burlingame & Co., printers, 1875, 380 pp.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8.

18. CRANSTON (formerly MESHANTICUT) MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1705-1861 (privileged meetings until 1874), Cranston.

Meetings were started in the home of Roger Burlingham or Burlingame. The meeting house was built in 1729-30, a plain wooden, two-story structure. Repairs were made in 1785, 1807, and 1817, and an addition of 20 feet at the same height was made in 1819. By 1861, 1st of 7th mo., the meeting had dwindled to such an extent that the remaining Friends united with those of Coventry, entry 34, in weekly meetings. The meeting house was sold in 1866 to Lodowick Brayton, who was given three years to move it. He gave the building to the Searles Corner Benevolent Society. It was then moved to Wilbur Ave. and used first as a Sunday School, then as a church, by the Baptists, until the Oaklawn Baptist Church was built in 1879. The Friends also continued to use it occasionally until 1874. The building still stands behind the Oaklawn Baptist Church. See: J. Earl Clauson, Cranston - A Historical Sketch, Providence, T. S. Hammond, 1904, 52 pp.

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All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8.

19. SOUTH KINGSTOWN MEETING FOR WORSHIP, prior to 1705 - 1899, Peace Dale, South Kingstown.

There is a tradition that the house in which they first met was destroyed by the Indians in 1675. It is reported that the first building for worship erected by Friends in South Kingstown was prior to 1701. In Judge Samuel Sewall's diary, under an entry of Sept. 20, 1706, he states that he went "into the Quaker Meeting House, about thirty-five feet long, thirty feet wide, on Hazard's ground, which was [formerly] mine." Another writer states that a structure was built in 1710, while still another gives 1730 as the date. However, in 1743, the year of the beginning of the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, entry 10, the Monthly Meetings were held at the meeting house belonging to this Meeting for Worship at Tower Hill. In 1789, there was talk of repairing the meeting house, but in 1790 it was destroyed by fire.

A new meeting house was built 1791-92 at the same place, during which time meetings were held at John Congdon's house, according to the records; Caroline Hazard states that they were held at the house of Benjamin Rodman, at what is now Peace Dale. This house was abandoned in 1858, and was made into a dwelling house.

One account states that a site was acquired in 1858 near Peace Dale, the gift of the late Rowland Hazard, but it has not been ascertained if or when a meeting house was built on it; although information seems to point to the fact that a plain wooden Quaker meeting house was probably erected about 1860, a careful inspection of the records does not verify this fact. In the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting records, on a loose sheet of paper in the back of Women's Minutes, No. 21, dated 1886, 19th of 7th mo., is the notation that a Women's Preparative Meeting was held at Peace Dale, and in 1872, 22nd of 4th mo., the Women's Meeting of the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting was first held at Peace Dale.

This Meeting for Worship was a component of the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, from 1705, when that Monthly Meeting first called upon the Meetings for Worship situated on the west side of Narragansett Bay to send representatives to it, until 1743, when the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, entry 10, was set off, at which time it was transferred to the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting. It was a component of the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting from that time until 1899, with the exception of 1842-47, when the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting was suspended, and this Meeting for Worship came under the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8. See: Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster, Rise and Progress of Friends in Westerly and Vicinity, Westerly, The Utter Company, 1916, 40 pp. Caroline Hazard, Anchors of Tradition, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1924, 242 pp. Mary Kenyon Huling, The Story of Pettaquamscutt, Providence, Reynolds Press, 1936, 25 pp.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting prior to 1743, and also 1842-47, during the suspension of the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting; for records see entry 8. 1743-1842 and 1847-99 business was transacted through the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting; for records see entry 10.

20. LITTLE COMPTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP, prior to 1707, possibly before 1700 - about 1900, West Road, Little Compton.

First meeting house, built in 1700, was also the first building erected in Little Compton to be used exclusively as a house of worship. It had high galleries, an open fireplace, and a movable partition through the middle of the house. The second (last) house, a plain wooden meeting house, was built in 1815. This second house was allowed to decay, until 1925, when the Dartmouth [Mass.] Monthly Meeting, see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives, and summer residents of Little Compton restored it inside and out, under the supervision of Herbert A. Grinnell of Little Compton. Prior to 1780 this meeting belonged to Dartmouth [Mass.] Monthly Meeting, and after 1780 to Westport [Mass.] Monthly Meeting, see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives. Westport Monthly Meeting was set off from Dartmouth Monthly Meeting, under the name of Acoaxet, in 1766. The first minute book of Westport Monthly Meeting (Men) begins 1766, 14th of 6th mo.

In Westport Monthly Meeting records, 1780, 19th of 2nd mo., at Acoaxet, is the following minute: "There was a motion made in this meeting by the request of Several Friends belonging to Little Compton Signifying they have conversed with Each other and are Unanimously of the mind to be joined to this monthly meeting for the future if the Two Monthly Meetings concerned think well of it and the Quarterly meeting approve thereof"; which seems to show that the Little Compton Meeting for Worship was transferred from Dartmouth Monthly Meeting to Westport Monthly Meeting in 1780, with the approval of the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, to which these Monthly Meetings belonged at this time. In 1788, the Westport Monthly Meeting was transferred from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting to the Sandwich [Mass.] Quarterly Meeting. For records see the forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives. In the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting records, dated 1707, 17th of 1st mo., the Little Compton meeting is spoken of as "Seconet." See: Author unknown, A Brief Account of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, Providence, Marshall & Brown, 1836, 36 pp. Richard M. Bayles, History of Newport County, New York, L. E. Preston, 1888, 1060 pp. Providence Journal, Sept. 22, 1925, p. 4.

All business prior to 1780 was transacted through the Dartmouth [Mass.] Monthly Meeting; after 1780 through the Westport [Mass.] Monthly Meeting. For records see entries for these Monthly Meetings in forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives.

21. SMITHFIELD MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1719-- , Smithfield Road, near Union Village (formerly Woonsocket Cross Road), Woonsocket.

First meeting house was built 1719-21 on part of an acre of land, at a place called Dugaway, purchased in 1719 for a cemetery. This structure was originally 20 feet square. In 1727 a small ell was added; in 1755 another, 20 feet by 30 feet. This last ell was removed in 1775, and an addition, 34 feet by 32 feet, was built. From 1846 to 1849, the whole building was remodelled, and in 1881 it was destroyed by fire. The second and last building, which was completed in the fall of 1881, was damaged by fire, April 1882, to the extent of \$300, but it was repaired the same year. Friends of this meeting declared in 1771 that "it is thought necessary that poor children be

schoolled" and plans were drawn up to establish a free school among Friends, the first free Friends school in New England. This meeting house was the religious and educational center of the region for upwards of a century. First settlers of the Woonsocket region were Friends. The Yearly Meeting was held in this house for two years while Newport was held by the British forces. Recruits for the French and Indian Wars and prisoners from General Burgoyne's army were lodged in the first meeting house. See: Thomas Steere, History of the Town of Smithfield, Providence, E. L. Freeman & Co., 1881, 230 pp.

All business was transacted through the Smithfield Monthly Meeting (known as Providence Monthly Meeting prior to 1731); for its records see entry 9.

22. PROVIDENCE MEETING FOR WORSHIP, about 1724-25-- , North Main St., at Meeting St., Providence.

Early Meetings were held in the Town of Providence in 1666 under James Burnyeate, and in 1672 under George Fox. In 1672 the government of the colony was in the hands of the Friends. It was proposed to build a house on "Sucklin's Lot," located in the present City of Providence, about 1691, but this was given up in favor of a site near Eleazer Arnold's dwelling, in what is now Saylesville, where a meeting house was erected 1703-4, entry 16, in that part of the Town of Providence later set off as Smithfield, and still later as Lincoln. The Providence Monthly Meeting, later known as Smithfield Monthly Meeting, entry 9, was set off from Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, in 1718, and the following year the meeting house at Woonsocket, entry 21 (also in the Town of Providence) was built.

The first meeting house, in what is now Providence, proposed 1724 and built 1725-26 on Stamper's Hill, was moved in 1745 to a site between South Court and Meeting Sts.; addition made, 1784-85. The present plain wooden meeting house was built in 1844-45, on the same site. Horse and carriage sheds are still standing in the yard. Prior to the erection of the meeting house of the present Providence Meeting for Worship in 1724-25, the Friends residing in this territory went to Saylesville, entry 16. This Meeting for Worship came under the Smithfield Monthly Meeting, entry 9, prior to 1783, and when the Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 11, was set off from the Smithfield Monthly Meeting in 1783, Providence Meeting for Worship was transferred to that meeting. Town Meetings were held, and school was held for a long time in the Providence meeting house.

See: William R. Staples, Annals of the Town of Providence, Providence, Knowles and Vose, 1843, 670 pp. George W. Greene, A Short History of Rhode Island, Providence, J. A. and R. A. Reid, 1877, 356 pp. Richard M. Bayles, History of Providence County, New York, W. W. Preston & Co., 1891, 2 vols. Edward Field, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Boston, Mason Publishing Co., 1902, 3 vols.

All business, prior to 1783, was transacted through the Smithfield Monthly Meeting (known as Providence Monthly Meeting prior to 1731); for its records see entry 9. From 1783 to the present, all business transacted through the Providence Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 11.

23. SCITUATE MEETING FOR WORSHIP, about 1735 - about 1860, Scituate.

First meeting house, destroyed by fire prior to the Revolutionary War, was erected on land given by Gideon Harris in the district then known as the Old Bank. Meetings were then held in private homes until the building of the last meeting house, a plain wooden structure, in 1811; it was repaired in 1842. This meeting was a component of the Smithfield Monthly Meeting, entry 9, until 1783, when it was made a member of the Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 11, which was established in that year. See: Charles C. Beaman, An Historical Address delivered in Scituate, Rhode Island, July 4th, 1876, Phenix, Capron & Campbell, printers, 1877, 59 pp.

All business was transacted through the Smithfield Monthly Meeting until 1783, and through the Providence Monthly Meeting from 1783 until about 1860; for its records see entries 9 and 11.

24. RICHMOND MEETING FOR WORSHIP, prior to 1743? - 1844, 30th of 10th mo., South of Usquepaugh, near the South Kingstown town line, Richmond.

First mentioned in records in 1743; tradition says meetings held for some years before. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster states that Friends from Richmond were among those establishing the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in 1743. No mention in Greenwich Monthly Meeting records. There seems to have been but one building, a plain wooden structure, erected in 1753 or 54 on the highway leading from John Knowles' to Mumford Kills (now Usquepaugh); it was sold when the meeting became defunct. The land was deeded to the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, entry 10, in 1755, after the meeting house was completed. See: Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster, Rise and Progress of Friends in Westerly and Vicinity, Westerly, The Utter Company, 1916, 40 pp.

All business was transacted through the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 10.

25. HOPKINTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1743? - about 1880, Hopkinton.

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster states that representatives from Hopkinton were present at the formation of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in 1743. First meeting house, erected in 1747-48, was known as Westerly Upper Meeting House, the town of Hopkinton being at that time a part of the town of Westerly. In 1832 it was replaced by a second plain wooden meeting house.

In 1842 a separation occurred in this meeting which later led to the Wilburite controversy that affected many Friends meetings in Rhode Island, New England, and other states, particularly Ohio. This controversy was the cause of the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, entry 10, being suspended, 1842-47; during that time the Hopkinton Meeting for Worship reported to the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8. See: Frederic Denison, Westerly and Its Witnesses, Providence, J. A. and R. A. Reid, 1878, 314 pp. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster, Rise and Progress of Friends in Westerly and Vicinity, Westerly, The Utter Company, 1916, 40 pp.

All business was transacted through the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 10. From 1842-47 while South Kingstown Monthly Meeting was suspended, all business was done through Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8.

26. CHARLESTOWN MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1743? - 1745, Charlestown.

According to some accounts, the records of this meeting were destroyed when a meeting house at Charlestown was burned in 1743. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster states that representatives were present from Charlestown at the formation of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in 1743. However, the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, entry 10, to which this meeting belonged was not set off from Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, until 1743. South Kingstown Monthly Meetings were held from 1743 to 1745 at James Congdon's in Charlestown, alternating with South Kingstown (Tower Hill), entry 19. In 1745 the Monthly Meeting held at Charlestown was transferred to Westerly, entry 27, where a meeting house had been built. This probably means that those Friends who formerly met for worship in Charlestown went to Westerly also, or to Tower Hill. See: Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster, Rise and Progress of Friends in Westerly and Vicinity, Westerly, The Utter Company, 1916, 40 pp.

All business was transacted through the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 10.

27. WESTERLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1743? - 1800?, Post Road, Westerly.

Meetings were held at the home of Stephen Richmond prior to the building of the meeting house, probably a plain, small, wooden structure, in 1744. Histories and Friends' records give meager information about this meeting. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster states that Friends from Charlestown, Westerly, Hopkinton, and Richmond established the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in 1743. Also, that the Westerly meeting declined during the period of the Revolution - then, after lingering for some years, it became extinct. After discontinuance of the Westerly meeting on the Post Road, Friends living in the vicinity of Westerly attended the Hopkinton meeting. [The Meeting that Mrs. Foster says was again established in Westerly in 1854 at the home of Charles Perry, is actually the present Westerly Meeting for Worship (Wilburite)], entry 47. See: Frederic Denison, Westerly and Its Witnesses, 1626-1876, Providence, J. A. & R. A. Reid, 1878, 315 pp. J. R. Cole, History of Washington and Kent Counties, New York, W. W. Preston & Co., 1889, 1344 pp. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foster, Rise and Progress of Friends in Westerly and Vicinity, Westerly, The Utter Company, 1916, 40 pp.

Business from 1743 to 1800? was transacted through South Kingstown Monthly Meeting; for records see entry 10.

28. WESTERN (S.K.)¹ MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1750 - about 1885, South Kingstown.

In 1748, there was talk of erecting a meeting house in the southwest

1. South Kingstown. So listed in A Brief Account, 1836.

Society of Friends - Orthodox

part of Kingstown, between the South Kingstown, entry 19, and Lower Westerly Meeting Houses, entry 27. It was built in 1750, on James Perry's land, between James Perry's and James Congdon's, in Charlestown, a one-story wooden building, 32 feet long, 24 feet wide, with $9\frac{1}{2}$ foot posts. Deed to house and burial ground conveyed in 1750, after its erection. According to the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, entry 10, records (Women's Minutes), the last meeting at Western was in 1885, 2nd of 3rd mo.; and in 1888, 23rd of 1st mo., is the notation that the meeting house at Western had been sold for \$12. Monthly meetings formerly held at Western were transferred to Hopkinton, entry 25, in 1885.

All business was transacted through the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 10.

29. CUMBERLAND MEETING FOR WORSHIP, about 1750 - after 1888, Abbott Run Valley Road, Arnold Mills, Cumberland.

Meetings were held in private homes until the erection of the only meeting house in 1809. Samuel Hill contributed liberally to the building of this two-story structure, located on the west side of Abbott Run Valley Road, about a half mile south of the village of Arnold Mills. On Nov. 27, 1926, it was purchased by Charles S. Hilton from the Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 11, for use as a dwelling. This Meeting for Worship came under the Smithfield Monthly Meeting, entry 9, prior to 1783, and the Providence Monthly Meeting, entry 11, after that date. See: Hoag, Wade & Co., History of the State of Rhode Island, Philadelphia, Hoag, Wade & Co., 1878, 370 pp. Richard M. Bayles, History of Providence County, New York, W. W. Preston & Co., 1891, 2 vols.

All business prior to 1783 was transacted through the Smithfield Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 9. All business after 1783 was transacted through the Providence Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 11.

30. TIVERTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP, prior to 1776 - about 1900, Tiverton.

First meeting house was built prior to the Revolution and was used as a hospital during that war; building was subsequently taken down and another built, date not found, which burned down in 1860. This was replaced by a plain wooden building on the same site. Records show that this meeting was weak in 1790 and also in 1874. Minute records of the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, entry 7, show very few references to Tiverton. There is little information in histories.

All business was transacted through the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 7.

31. BURRILLVILLE MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1783 - about 1893, Mapleville, Burrillville.

Building, erected 1791, is a small, roughly constructed, two-story frame meeting house, situated at the junction of three roads, on a spot now included in Mapleville. It is now a tenement. In 1783, before the town of Burrillville was set off from Glocester, at a meeting at the home of Jesse Battey it was unanimously decided to join the Uxbridge [Mass.] Monthly Meeting, see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives, and negotia-

tions were started to that effect. Shortly after, a Meeting for Worship was set up with services in Mr. Battey's home. In 1791 this meeting separated from the Uxbridge Monthly Meeting and joined the Smithfield Monthly Meeting, entry 9. In Minute Book 9 of the Smithfield Monthly Meeting records, 1893, 26th of 1st mo., is the following: "Burrillville Preparative Meeting ask to have their mid-week meetings and meetings for business discontinued. After due consideration this meeting concluded to grant their request, and the members of that meeting are hereby annexed to Smithfield Preparative Meeting," entry 21. The Meeting for Worship was probably laid down soon after, if not at that time. See: Horace A. Keach, Burrillville As It Was and As It Is, Providence, Knowles Anthony & Co., 1856, 170 pp. Rev. Thomas E. Ryan, Burrillville, R. I., and the Catholic Church, Providence, Remington Press, 1925, 168 pp.

All business prior to 1791 was transacted through the Uxbridge [Mass.] Monthly Meeting; for its records see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives. All business after 1791 was transacted through the Smithfield Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 9.

32. FOSTER MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1789-1846, Foster.

Foster and Coventry Friends first met in 1789, 2nd of 11th mo. An entry in the minutes of the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, dated 1791, 3rd of 1st mo., reads: "house where the Foster meeting has been held, in Coventry, is now sold"; the committee appointed for oversight of the meeting thought that the meeting should be removed to a schoolhouse of Artemas Fish in Foster, which was done. Land was bought for a meeting house in Foster in 1792, 3rd of 9th mo., and in 1795 a meeting house, 20 feet by 20 feet, with 12 foot posts, was built for the use of Friends in Foster and Coventry. Repairs were made in 1823, 1830, and 1839. The meeting was discontinued in 1846, 2nd of 3rd mo., and the meeting house was sold in 1850, 7th mo. The Plainfield [Conn.] Preparative Meeting was laid down in 1838 and members joined the Foster meeting; the Plainfield [Conn.] Meeting for Worship was discontinued in 1851, 4th of 8th mo. See forthcoming Connecticut Inventory of Church Archives for this meeting.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8.

33. WICKFORD MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1796-1840, Wickford, North Kingstown.

Meeting house built in 1797, 9th mo., was a plain wooden building, 34 feet by 24 feet, with 16 or 17 foot posts. "Meeting at Wickford had no speaker for many years, and for a long time before it was given up it was attended by only two persons, Beriah Brown and Howland Vaughn, who sat together in silence the usual time, and then shaking hands, the usual custom in closing the meeting, went to their homes." - J. R. Cole, History of Washington and Kent Counties. These two men were transferred to the East Greenwich Meeting for Worship, entry 15. The Wickford Meeting was suspended in 1833, 3rd of 6th mo., and laid down in 1840, 2nd of 11th mo. Meeting house and land were sold, except enough for a burial ground, in 1845, 4th of 8th mo.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8.

34. COVENTRY MEETING FOR WORSHIP, 1813 - about 1915, Meeting St.,
Anthony, Coventry.

The records of the Greenwich Monthly Meeting, entry 8, show that in 1813 the request of Friends at the Coventry and Warwick mills, for a meeting under a committee, for three months, was granted, and meetings were held in a schoolhouse, at Anthony, which had been provided for that purpose. A lot was offered and accepted in 1821, and a plain one-story wooden meeting house was built on it in 1825, opened 13th of 2nd mo.; repairs were made in 1866, 1880, 1882, 1885, 1891, and 1897. A shed was built in 1826. The building was sold to a Polish Club in 1926. (Quaker Cemetery next lot.) In 1829, 4th of 5th mo., the Cranston Preparative Meeting was held alternately at Coventry and Cranston, and in 1848 Coventry became a separate Preparative Meeting. By 1860, 2nd of 4th mo., the Cranston Preparative Meeting united with that of Coventry. Winter meetings from the winter of 1891-92 until 1894-95 were suspended. In 1895, 15th of 5th mo., the meetings were discontinued, and the members joined the East Greenwich (Preparative) Meeting, entry 15. The Monthly Meetings which had been held there were moved to East Greenwich. In 1897, a committee was appointed by the Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, to reopen meetings at Anthony, and a Preparative Meeting was established, known as Coventry Preparative Meeting of Friends. By 1915 this meeting again became weak, and it was laid down about this time.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting; for its records see entry 8.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS - WILBURITE

Note: In 1845, when the Wilburite controversy came to a head in the New England Yearly Meeting, entry 1, the Wilbur group broke away and formed their own annual meeting, which they also called New England Yearly Meeting. In order to avoid confusion in names, this meeting will be referred to as New England Yearly Meeting (Wilburite). Members of this group are also called Orthodox Conservative Friends and the Smaller Body.

35. NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING (WILBURITE), 1845--

At the New England Yearly Meeting, held in Newport in 1845, 6th mo., a division arose over the matter of the acceptance of reports from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5; reports were received from two groups. A committee was appointed, composed of the other Quarterly Meetings (Smithfield and Sandwich) to decide which report to accept, but the next day, before it could bring in its report, a new clerk was appointed who accepted the report from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, and seized the papers of the Yearly Meeting. The sympathizers with the group which had withdrawn from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting met in the Second Baptist Church on Clarke Street, Newport, elected a clerk, and held a meeting; this became the New England Yearly Meeting (Wilburite). The 1846 meeting was also held in the Second Baptist Church, but after that year, and until 1883, this meeting was held at the Mann Avenue meeting house. The Newport Mercury, June 19, 1847, states: "A large body of the denomination [Friends] at the old place, the smaller body in the small meeting house on Mann Ave." Meetings, 1884--, have been held at the house of the Westerly Preparative Meeting, entry 47, at 57 Elm St., Westerly, which was built in 1879. See: Committee, Report of the Meeting for Sufferings adopted by the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia, Boston, T. R. Marvin, 1849, approx. 50 pp. William Hodgson, Society of Friends in the Nineteenth Century, Philadelphia, for sale by Smith, English & Co., and the author, Sherman & Co., printers, 1875, 2 vols. (Vol. I - p. 58).

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|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1845-1917 | Joint Sessions from 1907. |
| | Joint Sessions | 3 vols. | 1918-- | Vol. 1922-36 consists of typed sheets bound. (Vol. 1937--, Henry Haynes Perry, 31 Milk St., Boston.) |
| | Women's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1845-1907 | Joint Sessions from 1907. |

1. All records, except Joint Sessions 1937--, are in the vault at Washington Trust Company, Westerly, R. I., in custody of Thomas Perry.

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|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| | Account Book | 1 vol. | 1845-1908 | |
| | Other financial records | | | In Minute Books. |
| | Meeting for Sufferings | 2 vols. | 1845-1902 | |
| | Meeting for Sufferings | 1 vol. | 1849-87 | List of members. |
| | Ministers and Elders | 1 vol. | 1845-- | Short introduction at beginning of volume in the handwriting of John Wilbur. |
| | Epistles | 1 vol. | 1831-90 | To and from London Yearly Meeting. |
| | Discipline | 1 vol. | 1809, 1826, 1840, 1849, 1856 | Manuscript. |

36. RHODE ISLAND AND SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING (WILBURITE), 1844--,
Elm St., Westerly.

Note: This meeting was known as Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) until 1935, when the Sandwich [Mass.] Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives, united with it. At that time the present name was adopted.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) broke away from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Orthodox), entry 5, at the meeting of that body held in Somerset, Mass., in 1844, 11th month. At this meeting two reports were received from the Swansea Monthly Meeting (Orthodox), due to dissension in that meeting. One was from the new clerk appointed by the Yearly Meeting, entry 1, the other bearing the signature of the old clerk, Thomas Wilbur.

For a few years prior to 1844, due largely to the Wilbur controversy, no new officers had been appointed by the Swansea Monthly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting, noting this condition, appointed a new clerk who did not happen to be sympathetic to the Wilbur group. At the Monthly Meeting held in 1844, 9th or 10th month, the new clerk attempted to read reports and conduct business from behind the clerk's table which was occupied by the old clerk,

1. All records are in the vault at Washington Trust Company, Westerly, R. I., in custody of Thomas Perry.

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Thomas Wilbur, a nephew of John Wilbur. Thomas Wilbur refused to give up his position as clerk. The result was a split in the meeting, some following the new clerk and others following Thomas Wilbur, and becoming a (John) Wilbur body.

The clerk of the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Orthodox), entry 5, accepted the report of the new clerk. After the regular meeting had adjourned, Friends who were opposed to this acceptance of the new Swansea clerk's report remained in the meeting house, calling themselves Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, and appointing clerks and a committee to visit subordinate meetings. This committee visited the Monthly Meetings of the New England Yearly Meeting, entry 1 (now the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England), and attempted to sit with them and to be recognized as a committee from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Orthodox), entry 5. When the Monthly Meetings (Orthodox) were not in sympathy with this Wilburite committee, they sometimes adjourned rather than permit the committee to take part in these meetings.

Some members of the Monthly Meetings (Orthodox) who were in sympathy with Wilbur formed Monthly Meetings (Wilburite), sometimes taking the same name as the meeting from which they had withdrawn.

The break, whereby the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) came into being in 1844, 11th mo., has been described. In 1845, 1st of 5th mo., representatives from the Monthly Meetings (Wilburite) attempted to hold a Quarterly Meeting at the Peirce Street meeting house in East Greenwich, but they were denied admittance, and held their meeting in the Kent County Court House, East Greenwich. Representatives were present from Rhode Island, entry 37, Greenwich, entry 39, Providence, entry 38, and Swansea [Mass.] Monthly Meetings (Wilburite). Later meetings at East Greenwich probably were held at the house of George C. Kenyon, and at the East Greenwich Methodist Episcopal Church. The next meeting, in 1845, 8th mo., was held in Newport, at the Baptist Meeting House on Clarke Street, now the Second Baptist Church of Newport. By 1847, 8th mo., the meeting was held in the Mann Avenue house (Wilburite) in Newport. In 1845, 11th mo., the meeting was at Fall River, Mass., instead of Somerset, Mass. The meeting was at Providence, 1846, 2nd mo. The meetings were held in the 2nd month at Providence, 5th month at East Greenwich, 8th month at Newport, and 11th month at Fall River, until 1864, 8th mo., when the Newport meeting was moved to North Providence. In 1848 the meeting held the 2nd month of each year at Providence was moved to North Providence. In 1865 the meeting held at East Greenwich in the 5th month was moved to Westerly; this 5th month meeting was moved to Hopkinton in 1867, 5th mo. In 1867 the meeting held at Fall River in the 11th month was moved to Westerly. In 1874 part of North Providence became a part of the town of Pawtucket and the North Providence meetings fell in Pawtucket territory. In 1879 the meeting held in Hopkinton in the 5th month was moved back to Westerly. In 1884 the meetings held at Pawtucket in the 2nd and 8th months were moved to Westerly; all meetings were now held in Westerly. In 1935 the Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) joined the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) and they continue as one meeting under the name of Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meeting. Since 1935 meetings have been held alternately at Westerly, West Warwick, North Dartmouth, Mass., and Dover, Mass. See: Society of Friends, Report of the Meeting for Sufferings adopted by The Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia, Boston, T. R. Marvin, 1849, approx. 50 pp.

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|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1844-85 | |
| | Joint Sessions | | 1923-35 | Typed sheets in large white envelope. |
| | Joint Sessions | 1 vol. | 1935-- | (Jane M. Foster, clerk, 234 Warwick Ave., West Warwick). |
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1848-80 | Clerk's Note Book. |
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1880-91 | Small paper-covered Clerk's Note Book found between pages of first volume of Men's Minutes. |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Financial Records | | | In Minute Books. |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Ministers and Elders | 4 vols. | 1845-- | |

37. RHODE ISLAND MONTHLY MEETING (WILBURITE), 1844-64.

Members of a group who sympathized with Wilbur were refused admittance to the Farewell Street meeting house in Newport in 1844, 11th mo. They adjourned to the house of Thomas B. Gould, in Newport. The next meeting, 1844, 12th mo., was held at the house of William Boyd in Portsmouth. Monthly Meetings were held alternately at these two places until 1847, 4th of 11th mo., when permission was granted by the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, to hold these meetings at the new Mann Avenue meeting house of the Newport Meeting for Worship (Wilburite), entry 43.

By 1863, 26th of 11th mo., there were only ten members left in Newport, and they proposed to meet as one Preparative and Monthly Meeting. In 1864, they held their last meeting. Remaining members were annexed to Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 38, in 1864.

Lydia Ann Gould, who had been clerk of the meeting, refused to give up the records and denied the authority of the committee in the premises. However, these records are now in the hands of the Wilburites.

In 1884, 2nd mo., the two surviving trustees of the now defunct Rhode Island Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) sought permission to sell that Monthly Meeting's half interest in the meeting house and lot on Mann Avenue in Newport. Permission was granted. However, the court decided that these trustees did not have the power to act in selling the property. A committee was appointed to assist them, and a bill was passed by the General Assembly, giving the trustees power to sell. By this time the two original trustees had died;

1. Unless otherwise noted all records are in the vault at Washington Trust Co., Westerly, in custody of Thomas Perry.

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two more were appointed by the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) and the property was sold. After debts and expenses of the sale were paid, a balance of \$1,339.17 was turned over to the treasurer of the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), as directed by the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

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|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1844-64 | |
| | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1844-63 | |
| | Financial Records | | | In Minute Books. |
| | Marriages and Deaths | 1 vol. | 1863-75 | This record seems to have been kept after the meeting was laid down. |

38. PROVIDENCE MONTHLY MEETING (WILBURITE), 1844-81.

The Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) was started in 1844, 11th mo., by Friends from the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, who had been locked out of Lower Smithfield meeting house. The meeting was held at the home of John T. Kenyon, and he was chosen first clerk.

In 1857, meetings were held alternately at East Greenwich, probably at George C. Kenyon's, the 9th, 10th, 11th, 3rd, 4th, and 5th months and at North Providence the 12th, 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 8th months, of each year; the first alternate meeting being held at East Greenwich, 1857, 23rd of 9th mo. Swansea Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 40, was annexed to Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) in 1863.

The Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) minutes of 1864, 4th of 2nd mo., state that the former clerk of the Swansea Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), Israel Buffington, refused to give up the books and papers to the committee appointed by the Quarterly Meeting to receive them and turn them over to the clerk of Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite). However, some records held by the last clerk of the Swansea Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) seem to have been turned over. Later, the Swansea records were obtained, and are now in possession of the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 41, in Westerly.

In 1864, Providence Monthly Meeting held its meetings at North Providence, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 11th, and 12th months; at Warwick, 5th and 6th

1. Records are in the vault at Washington Trust Co., Westerly, R. I., in custody of Thomas Perry.

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months; at Newport in the 7th and 8th months; and at Fall River, the 9th and 10th months. The last two places were formerly meeting places of Swansea Monthly Meeting.

In 1865, the Foster Friends in Warwick joined Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Otis), entry 52. It is probable therefor that Warwick meetings were transferred to North Providence. The clerk of the Providence Monthly Meeting at that time seems to have omitted this change from the minutes.

In 1872, the meetings formerly held at Newport in the 7th and 8th months were moved to North Providence. In 1874, the North Providence meeting place now fell in the Town of Pawtucket. In 1875, the meetings formerly held at Fall River in the 9th and 10th months were moved to Pawtucket (formerly North Providence). In 1881, Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) was dissolved and the members thereof were attached to South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 41.

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|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1844-81 | |
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1877-81 | Clerk's Note Book. |
| | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1844-81 | |
| | Financial Records | | | In Minute Books. |

39. GREENWICH MONTHLY MEETING (WILBURITE), 1844-45.

The first meeting was held at Cranston in 1844, 2nd of 12th mo. The Wilburites were refused admittance to the meeting house there by the Orthodox group of Friends, but the place where the meeting was held is not given. This seems to be the only time that Cranston was mentioned as a meeting place. An attempt was made, 1844, 30th of 12th mo., to hold the meeting in the meeting house on Peirce St. in East Greenwich, but Friends (Orthodox) standing in the door of the structure prevented the Wilburites from entering. They met under the shed in the meeting house yard; the following is an extract from the minutes: "It is concluded under these circumstances to adjourn this meeting to the house of George C. Kenyon, in East Greenwich, to meet at half past twelve o'clock this afternoon - and this is done to avoid contention, not thereby relinquishing our just claim to the property thus withheld from us." In the minutes of the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, 1845, between 30th of 1st mo. and 3rd of 3rd mo., that Quarterly Meeting accepted the proposal to hold the Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) at Othniel Foster's house in South Kingstown, at Thomas Foster's house in Hopkinton, and at George C. Kenyon's in East Greenwich. On petition to Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), 1845, 7th of 8th mo., Greenwich Monthly Meeting was discontinued after next (9th mo.) meeting.

1. Records are in the vault at Washington Trust Co., Westerly, R. I., in custody of Thomas Perry.

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Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) joined South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) in 1845.

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|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1844-45 | |
| | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1844-45 | This record and Women's Minutes, 1845-95, of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting are also copied into a single volume. See entry 41. |

Financial Records In Minute Books.

40. SWANSEA MONTHLY MEETING (WILBURITE), 1844-63, Swansea, Mass.²

While Swansea is in Massachusetts it is on the boundary line, and a record of Rhode Island Friends would be incomplete without its inclusion.

Swansea Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) began at the time of the split in the Swansea Monthly Meeting in 1844. [An account of this split will be found in the history of the Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36.] It was dissolved about the end of 1863, and annexed to Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 38. The minutes of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, of 1863, 5th of 11th mo., show that their request to be dissolved and have their members annexed to Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) was granted. Between that date and 1864, 4th of 2nd mo., a committee appointed by the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, went to the old clerk of Swansea Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) to get the records and turn them over to the Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite). The clerk refused to part with the records and seems to have continued entries until 1865. The records later came into possession of the Wilburites, and are now with others in Westerly.

Meetings seem to have been held at Fall River, Mass.

See also: forthcoming Inventory of the Church Archives of Massachusetts.

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|------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 3 vols. | 1844-65 | |

1. Records are in the vault at Washington Trust Co., Westerly, R. I., in custody of Thomas Perry.

2. The split in this meeting, over the Wilbur question, divided the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, and later the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, entry 1.

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|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1858-63 | Clerk's Note Book. |
| | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1844-63 | |
| | Marriage Record Book | 1 vol. | No dates given | There are only 7 entries in this Book. |
| | Financial Records | | | In Minute Books. |

41. SOUTH KINGSTOWN MONTHLY MEETING (WILBURITE), 1845--

First meeting was held in Hopkinton, 1845, 9th mo., at the home of Thomas Foster. The next meeting, 1845, 10th mo., was at Othniel Foster's home at South Kingstown, north of Green Hill Beach. From 1845 to 1860, these Monthly Meetings were held alternately at Hopkinton and South Kingstown, in private homes, probably the two already mentioned. In 1848 a Wilburite meeting house was built at Hopkinton.²

Beginning with 1860, 2nd of 8th mo., meetings were held at Westerly, probably at Charles Perry's, in the 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th months; at Hopkinton, the 2nd, 5th, 8th, and 11th months; and at South Kingstown in the 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th months. In 1867 due to the small number of members living in South Kingstown, Monthly Meetings were held there in the 5th and 9th months only, the others being held alternately at Westerly and Hopkinton.

The last mention of a Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) being held in South Kingstown was in 1881, 9th mo. In 1882 the places of holding the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) were changed so that meetings were held in Hopkinton in the 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th months, and the remaining eight months at Westerly. In 1886 meetings were held in Hopkinton in the 6th and 9th months only, the other ten months in Westerly. In the Women's Minutes of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), 1889, 24th of 6th mo., is the last mention of the Monthly Meeting being held in Hopkinton. Since 1889, 9th mo., all South Kingstown Monthly Meetings (Wilburite) have been held in Westerly.

1. Records are in the vault at Washington Trust Co., Westerly, R. I., in custody of Thomas Perry.

2. Although the building of this house does not seem to be mentioned in the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) Minutes, it is mentioned in Denison, Westerly and Its Witnesses, and living Wilburite Friends remember it.

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|------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1845-87 | |
| | Joint Sessions | 2 vols. | 1905-- | (Vol. 1923--, Phebe F. Perry, clerk, 4 Margin St., Westerly, R. I.) |
| | Men's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1869-77 | Clerk's Note Books. |
| | Women's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1845-1905 | |
| | Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | | This volume is a copy of Greenwich Monthly Meeting Women's Minutes, 1844-45, entry 39, and South Kingstown Monthly Meeting Women's Minutes, 1845-95. |
| | Births, Deaths, Burials, Marriage Certificates | 1 vol. | 1755-- | |
| | Financial Records | | | In Minute Books. |
| | Select Preparative Meeting, Minutes | 2 vols. | 1845-1903 | Probably Minutes of Meetings of Ministers and Elders from the Preparative Meetings that made up South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite). |

42. HOPKINTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP (WILBURITE), 1842-85, Hopkinton Village, Hopkinton.

The Wilburite Friends in Hopkinton met in private homes from 1842 to 1848. A plain, wooden structure was built in 1848, within a few hundred yards of the Quaker meeting house erected by the Society of Friends (Orthodox) in 1832. It was probably made into a dwelling later. Histories, living Friends, and town officials have little definite information about this meeting house. This meeting was formed and led by John Wilbur about 1842, after the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Orthodox), entry 10, had been dissolved and Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Orthodox), entry 8, had dismissed him. No regular Meetings for Worship (Wilburite) were held in Hopkinton after 1885,

1. All records, with the exception of Joint Sessions, 1923--, are in the vault at Washington Trust Company, Westerly, R. I., in custody of Thomas Perry.

although the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, held a meeting there in 5th mo., from 1867 to 1879, and the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 41, met there from 1882, 5th mo., until 1889, 8th or 9th mo. Friends formerly attending this Meeting for Worship seem to have transferred to the Westerly Meeting. See: Frederic Denison, Westerly and Its Witnesses, Providence, J. A. & R. A. Reid, 1878, 315 pp.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), 1844-45, and South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), 1845-85; for records see entries 39 and 41.

43. NEWPORT MEETING FOR WORSHIP (WILBURITE), 1844-85, Mann Ave.,
Newport.

Met at first in private homes in Newport, probably at Thomas Gould's house. It is probable that the first meeting was held at the meeting house of the Second Baptist Church in Newport, in conjunction with the first meeting of the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 37. The meeting house, built on Mann Avenue in 1847, was a plain wooden structure; it was sold in 1886. An article in the Newport Daily News, dated Feb. 3, 1886, states that the meeting house on Mann Avenue, which "has not been used for many years," was to be put up for auction the following Wednesday, and this same article also states that the last surviving member (probably means of the Newport Meeting for Worship) was Isaac Chase, "who died some years ago." Services were permanently discontinued in 1885.

From 1845, this group was known as the Friends Society. In 1878 services were discontinued until 1883, when the Society assumed the name "The Ancient Society of Friends" and made the claim that their Society was established about 1640. This was done evidently as an act of defiance towards the Friends, entry 12, on Marlborough St., from whom they seceded in 1845.

Jamestown Friends (Wilburite) probably attended the Newport Meeting for Worship, as George Carr of Jamestown was listed as an officer of the Newport Meeting for Worship (Wilburite). Records show that the Jamestown Meeting for Worship (Wilburite) had been barred from the meeting house in Jamestown by the Orthodox Friends and met at the home of George Carr in Jamestown, and that the Jamestown Meeting for Worship belonged to Newport Preparative Meeting (Wilburite). The Portsmouth Friends (Wilburite) also went to Newport to attend the Meeting for Worship (Wilburite). See: "Notes of B. B. Howland" (Newport Historical Society, Newport, R. I.). Newport Daily News, Feb. 3, 1886.

All business was transacted through the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) until the dissolution of that meeting in 1864; then through the Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) from 1864 to 1878; and possibly through the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) from 1883 to 1885. For their records see entries 37, 38, and 41.

44. PROVIDENCE MEETING FOR WORSHIP (WILBURITE), 1844-1881?, Pawtucket.

This Meeting for Worship (Wilburite) was held at John T. Kenyon's in North Providence (later Pawtucket),¹ and in a small, plain, wooden meeting house located near the present Park Place, Pawtucket (North Providence, before 1874).

In 1881, 5th mo., the Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 38, petitioned the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, to be dissolved, which was granted, the members of that Monthly Meeting being transferred to South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 41. The Providence Meeting for Worship (Wilburite) was at a low ebb and probably ceased soon after, if not then.

All business was transacted through the Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite); for its records see entry 38.

45. GREENWICH MEETING FOR WORSHIP (WILBURITE), 1844-64?, East Greenwich.

This meeting first met at the home of George C. Kenyon in East Greenwich, and probably always met there. It belonged to Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 39, 1844-45. It seems to have had no affiliation from 1845 until 1857, 9th mo., when Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 38, began alternate meetings at East Greenwich. In 1864, Providence Monthly Meeting transferred its East Greenwich meeting to Warwick (probably to the home of the Foster Friends). Amos Foster states that George C. Kenyon sometimes attended a meeting for worship held at the present Amos Foster place on Warwick Avenue, about one mile east of the present Henry C. Foster farm. About 1865 he left that meeting and joined the Otis meeting for worship held at the Henry C. Foster Farm. This would mean that any meetings for worship held at Kenyon's in East Greenwich after 1865 would be Otis meetings. It is quite possible that all Otis meetings for worship were held at the Foster farm. It is stated by living members of the Foster family that the meeting for worship held at the Henry C. Foster farm had no special name, but was considered as a particular meeting of the Nantucket Monthly Meeting. It was probably referred to as the Foster Friends meeting. George C. Kenyon died in 1873, and if there was a meeting held at his house it was transferred to the present Henry C. Foster farm.

Business of this meeting was transacted thru Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), 1844-45, and Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), 1857-64; for its records see entries 39 and 38.

1. John T. Kenyon's was near the southern boundary of Pawtucket, on the west bank of the Seekonk River, probably just west of the present Riverside Cemetery.

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46. SOUTH KINGSTOWN MEETING FOR WORSHIP (WILBURITE), about 1844 - about 1882, South Kingstown.

This meeting never had a meeting house. They probably always met at the house of Othniel Foster, north of Green Hill Beach. The number of Friends (Wilburite) attending this meeting was probably never large; an entry in the Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) records, 1867, 7th of 2nd mo., mentions the small number of Wilburite Friends then residing in South Kingstown, and in another entry in the same records, dated 1881, 9th mo., is found the mention of the last meeting of the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) held at South Kingstown. This Meeting for Worship was probably laid down soon after, if not then.

All business was transacted through the Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite) and the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite); for their records see entries 39 and 41.

47. WESTERLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP (WILBURITE), 1854-- , 57 Elm St., Westerly.

First meetings were held at the home of Charles Perry, "the first," Margin St., Westerly. The meeting house, a plain wooden structure, was built in 1879 on Elm St. in Westerly. It is the only active Wilburite house in Rhode Island today.

See: Manuscript Diary of Charles Perry, 1854 (Miss Phebe and Miss Elizabeth Perry, 4 Margin St., Westerly). Frederic Denison, Westerly and Its Witnesses, Providence, J. A. & R. A. Reid, 1878, 315 pp.

All business has been transacted through the South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite); for its records see entry 41.

Note: This group of Friends got their name from the fact that most of them are, or were, members of a family named Foster. They must be considered as a group. An attempt will be made to give their affiliation with various Friends meetings.

In 1837, or 1838, Thomas Foster and his family moved from Hopkinton to Old Warwick, now West Warwick, near Centerville. As they were all Friends, they went to the Coventry Meeting for Worship, entry 34, in Anthony.

In 1844, the Wilbur controversy arose and the Fosters, with other Friends who felt as they did, set up the Greenwich Meeting for Worship, entry 45, at the house of George C. Kenyon, in East Greenwich. This meeting was affiliated with the Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 39, which was also held at Kenyon's. In 1845, 9th mo., Greenwich Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 39, was discontinued. Foster Friends probably continued to meet at George C. Kenyon's without any monthly meeting affiliation. It is possible that meetings for worship (no name) were held at the Thomas Foster farm. From 1857 to 1864, Greenwich Meeting for Worship (Wilburite), entry 45, was affiliated with Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 38, according to Providence Monthly and Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite) records, entries 38 and 36. Living members of two branches of the Foster family deny any knowledge of such an affiliation, yet they state that Foster Friends went to Kenyon's to a meeting for worship.

In 1863 there was a break in the Wilbur body of Friends over something that happened in a New York Yearly Meeting. The Nantucket [Mass.] Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives, was the only body in New England that sided with the Otis group in New York. They left the Wilburite group in a body and became the Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Otis), see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives. Foster Friends joined this Monthly Meeting in 1865.

From 1865 to the present, there has been a meeting for worship (no name) held on the Thomas Foster land, probably in the present Henry C. Foster house. From 1865 to 1911, this meeting was affiliated with the Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Otis), see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives. From 1911 to the present it has been affiliated with the Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives.

Foster Friends belonged to Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, entry 5, 1838 to 1844; to Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, 1844-45; from 1845 to 1865 they may not have had any Quarterly Meeting affiliation. From 1865 to 1885 they were members of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (Otis), see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives; from 1885 to 1911 they were affiliated with the New England Quarterly Meeting (Otis), see entry 50, which had Yearly Meeting powers.

In the period between 1845 and 1865 they may have continued as members of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36. If they were members

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of Providence Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 38, from 1857 to 1865, they certainly belonged to Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 36, during that time.

From 1838 to 1844, Foster Friends belonged to New England Yearly Meeting, entry 1; from 1844 to 1845 to New England Yearly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 35; from 1845 to 1865 possibly to none, possibly they continued in New England Yearly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 35; 1865 to 1885 to the General Meeting (Otis), entry 49; 1885 to 1911 to the New England Quarterly Meeting (Otis), entry 50, which had Yearly Meeting powers; 1911 to the present, New England Yearly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 35.

Amos Foster, aged 90, who belongs to another branch of the family, and who also lives on Warwick Avenue, about a mile east of the present Henry C. Foster farm, states that members of his branch of the Foster family, who settled on their land in 1836, also went to Coventry Meeting for Worship, entry 34, and later to Greenwich Meeting for Worship (Wilburite), entry 45, at George C. Kenyon's. He states further that a meeting for worship was held in his house (then his father's) that was sometimes attended by George C. Kenyon. This may have been about 1864 (he gives no dates). Soon after this, Kenyon changed to the meeting for worship held at the present Henry C. Foster farm, which became an Otis meeting in 1865. It would seem from this that there were a few Fosters who met for worship at the Amos Foster farm and did not join the Otis group. Mr. Foster could not give any dates for the meeting for worship held at his present home, but it does not seem to have been a formal organization. It was probably just the family group, with no formal affiliation with higher meetings. Mr. Foster seems to think that his branch of the family sometimes went to South Kingstown Monthly Meeting (Wilburite), entry 41. He remembers distinctly the Rhode Island Quarterly Meetings (Wilburite), entry 36, held at John T. Kenyon's in North Providence, later Pawtucket.

While Amos Foster's story shows that there may have been two Foster groups, in general we believe that the name should apply to the group still meeting at the Henry C. Foster farm.

In 1894, the Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Otis), see forthcoming Massachusetts Inventory of Church Archives, had only one member left on the Island. Most of the 23 members left were in Lynn and Providence (probably included Foster Friends in Warwick). It was this same year that the records were removed from Nantucket to Lynn, Mass. They remained in custody of James W. Oliver in Lynn, and later in Sharon, Mass., until his death, when they went to the Henry C. Foster farm, 234 Warwick Avenue, West Warwick. Due to splits in the Society of Friends, records of three different bodies are included in this one set of books, i. e. Orthodox, Wilburite, and Otis; after 1911, these records become Wilburite again. If the Orthodox and Wilburite committees now at work are able to bring these two groups together again, the Foster Friends will find themselves completing the circle from Orthodox back to Orthodox affiliation.

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49. GENERAL MEETING (OTIS)

Note: A Yearly Meeting held at Newport by a small group that broke away from the Wilburites in 1863. It continued until 1884; in the 1885 meeting, 6 mo., they changed to the New England Quarterly Meeting (Otis), which had Yearly Meeting powers.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's and Women's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1863-1884 | |

50. NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY MEETING (OTIS)

Note: This meeting, which also had Yearly Meeting powers, included Nantucket Monthly Meeting (Otis). It was discontinued in 1911, 16th of 3rd mo., when it was joined to Sandwich Quarterly Meeting (Wilburite).

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Joint Sessions | 2 vols. | 1885-1911 | |

51. SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

Note: Wilburite records, 1845-1865. Otis records, 1865-1869.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Women's Minutes | 2 vols. | 1845-69 | |

52. NANTUCKET MONTHLY MEETING

Note: The records of this meeting are Orthodox from 1708 to 1845; Wilburite from 1845 to 1863; Otis from 1863 to 1911; Wilburite, 1911--.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| 1-5 | Men's Minutes | 5 vols. | 1708-1873 | Joint Sessions began in 1868. |
| 7 | Joint Sessions | 1 vol. | 1900-- | 1934--typed on loose leaf sheets. |

1. Unless otherwise noted records are at the home of Henry C. Foster, 234 Warwick Ave., West Warwick.

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53. DARTMOUTH (NOVA SCOTIA) MONTHLY MEETING (ORTHODOX)

Note: This was a privileged meeting, made up largely of Friends who had moved from New England, some probably from Nantucket Monthly Meeting and Sandwich Quarterly Meeting. The records of this meeting were found with Friends' records at the Foster Farm.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> ¹ |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Men's Minutes | 1 vol. | 1789-98 | |

1. Unless otherwise noted records are at the home of Henry C. Foster, 234 Warwick Ave., West Warwick.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS - INDEPENDENT MEETING

Note: This type of meeting is made up of members of the Society of Friends who belong to various Yearly Meetings. They retain their membership in their own Yearly Meeting and still meet for worship without affiliating with a local Monthly or Yearly Meeting. These Independent Meetings are often located in territory not covered by a local Friends meeting. The one listed below is within the limits of the two Yearly Meetings in the State, but some members of both these meetings join with members of several other Yearly Meetings outside the State to form the membership of this Independent Meeting. The Friends Fellowship Council of the Philadelphia Meeting (Fourth and Arch Sts.) offers a guiding hand to Independent Meetings.

54. PROVIDENCE FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP GROUP, 1934-- , Lincoln School, 301 Butler Ave., Providence.

This group, now numbering about 65 people, is made up of members of several Yearly Meetings. The group itself, however, is an independent body not affiliated with any Yearly Meeting. During the school term they meet once a week, on first day, in a meeting for worship. About once a month a meeting for worship, followed by a business meeting, is held in some member's home. The general feeling seems to be for the old type of meeting, including periods of silence.

During school vacation in the summer, they are invited to join the Providence meeting at their North Main St. meeting house. They have been invited to join both Yearly Meetings represented in the State, see entries 1 and 35, but at present find themselves better satisfied to remain unaffiliated.

| <u>Vol. Nos.</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Contents and Remarks</u> |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---|
| | Joint Minutes | 1 vol. | 1934-- | (Maud Fowler, 11 Villa Ave.) Include financial records. |

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